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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

LOCAL



An eighth grader and a junior win in the Sengebau Poetry Competition.

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BUSINESS



Apple's pencil-thin, smaller iPad will cost much more than competitors.

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The rumble of engines in the sky immediately set the Aleppo neighborhood below on edge.

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Phone, camera ban in polling booths draws varied responses. **PAGE 3**
Hospital short of 26 critical posts, 20 nurses in key units. **PAGE 7**

AG nominee residency questioned

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's attorney general nominee, Joey Patrick San Nicolas, worked as assistant attorney general for the Guam Attorney General's Office from February 2011 to January 2012, raising concerns that he may be disqualified if the Senate finds that he does not meet the constitutional requirement of residing in the CNMI at least three year "immediately preceding" his confirmation.



» **San Nicolas worked in Guam until Jan. 2012**

See AG on **Page 4**

Lone Democratic bet disqualified

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission disqualified yesterday the lone candidate of the CNMI Democratic Party, Jesse David Jones Torres, after investigation showed that he is not a registered voter in the Commonwealth but Guam.

In an emergency meeting yesterday, acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo disclosed that Torres lost his residency in the CNMI since Oct. 22, 2010, when he registered to vote in Precinct 14A in Guam. And since he has lost his

residency, Torres is no longer eligible to vote in the CNMI unless he once again meets the qualifications to register to vote on island.

The commission board unanimously voted on three motions yesterday: 1.) Disqualification of Torres as an eligible voter in the CNMI; 2.) his disqualification as a candidate for the Nov. 6 elections; and 3) instruction to the commission to strike out Torres' name in the election ballots.

Alepuyo, citing provisions of the election law, said that no person shall be eligible to vote who has not resided

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MOE waiver application found insufficient—Kilili

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has asked the U.S. Department of Education for a waiver on the maintenance-of-effort requirement but the application was found lacking in sufficiency and deemed "totally inconsistent" with federal standards.



Sablan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) disclosed this to members of the Board of Education and Public School System officials during yesterday's board meeting.

Sablan revealed that because of this finding, the USDOE has asked the CNMI government to provide more data that are deemed acceptable to the MOE calculation.

The maintenance-of-effort rule requires PSS to receive a specific share in the overall budget of the CNMI government as a condition to receiving a federal grant.

The USDOE awarded the CNMI \$44 million in

See MOE on **Page 4**



EDUCATION MONTH WINNERS

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., left, introduces to board members and guests this year's winners of the Education Month theme and logo competitions. With the commissioner is Garapan Elementary School fourth grader Dominic Torres, center, who won the theme competition, and Saipan Southern High School's Kohei Nimura, this year's top winner in the logo competition.

See story on **Page 2**



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Local

BOE endorses November as PSS Education Month



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Education board members and Public School System officials and staff, along with Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), gather for a group photo after yesterday's proclamation signing of November 2012 as CNMI Education Month.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI State Board of Education yesterday endorsed November as the Commonwealth's Education Month to recognize the invaluable support and achievement of stakeholders that have contributed to the success of the school system.

The proclamation was made during the board's special meeting yesterday where it also endorsed three separate Education

Day celebrations on three islands.

The Board of Education approved the celebration of Rota Education Day on Nov. 19, to be followed by the Tinian edition on Nov. 20, while Saipan schools will celebrate the occasion on Nov. 21.

According to the board, Education Month will provide an opportunity for the CNMI Public School System to increase public awareness of the role of education on the islands, the Pacific region, and the global

world. It will also promote closer cooperation and stronger relationships between educators and the community at large.

The proclamation states that PSS believes that the cornerstone of intellectual and character development for children is founded on the teaching of basic academic skills and character building skills. The system also believes in the implementation of programs that foster enthusiasm for learning and develop diverse cultural awareness,

knowledge, and understanding appropriate to the Commonwealth's heritage and traditions as well as other people and their culture.

BOE chair Marylou S. Ada called on people of the CNMI to observe the month of November 2012 with appropriate programs, activities, and ceremonies supporting this year's celebration.

This year's theme is "A wave of knowledge flows into a tsunami of success," as suggested

by fourth grader Dominic Torres of Garapan Elementary School. Torres received a plaque of commendation for winning the theme competition, along with Saipan Southern High School student Kohei Nimura, who topped the logo contest.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., said the executive education steering committee—headed by last year's CNMI Teacher of the Year Jonathan P. Cabrera—is planning and developing a series of activities

for the occasion.

Besides activities honoring all educators in the system, PSS traditionally recognizes outstanding employees. These include the teacher of the year awardees, teacher aides of the year, support staffers of the year, best school administrators, counselors, and outstanding administrative staffers.

Every year, the Teacher of the Year awardee gets the chance to vie for the national title and meet with the U.S. President.

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TO PROTECT SECRECY OF VOTE

Phone, camera ban in polling booths draws varied response

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Amid concerns that some political campaigns may have been asking voters to take photos of their ballots in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections as proof of support or in exchange for benefits, private citizen Glen Hunter formally asked yesterday the Commonwealth Election Commission to issue emergency regulations banning cell phones, cameras, and other recording devices in polling booths "to protect the secrecy of the vote." This early, the proposal is drawing varied response.

Lawmakers and other community members separately expressed their opinion on Hunter's proposal, many of them supporting his request to the election body.

Another private citizen, Donna Cruz, also told the election body to add her voice to Hunter's proposal "to effectuate security and secrecy in the ballot booths come election time."

Hunter, a community advocate for transparency and accountability in government and one of the organizers of last Sunday's anti-corruption rally, specifically asked the commission to implement the

proposed rule prior to the Nov. 6 midterm elections.

"This additional regulation will not harm any member of the public and will not result in increased costs to the taxpayers. Enforcement can be achieved by utilizing the already assigned poll worker and the additional notice can be added to notices already planned for polling stations that prohibit things such as campaigning and other off-limits," Hunter said in his letter to election commission executive director Robert Guerrero.

Guerrero, in turn, forwarded Hunter's letter to the chairperson of the commission "for their action and disposition" as 1 CMC 6105(e) dictates the duty of promulgating regulation to the commission.

Some lawmakers, including House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ray Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Janet Maratita (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), and Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), support Hunter's request.

Dela Cruz said that if these allegations are true about taking a photo of one's filled out

ballot to confirm their vote with others, then it's "pathetic." He said he wouldn't be surprised, though, as the party alleged to have been committing this will resort to anything that will be self-serving.

"Glen Hunter's request should be heeded by the CEC," Dela Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Deleon Guerrero said he supports "any effort to prevent voter intimidation or influencing inside the voting booth."

Villagomez, for his part, said he only hopes that the election body would have enough manpower or poll workers to enforce the proposed rule if approved "and have it all spelled out in terms of how it's going to be carried out."

Covenant Party campaign manager Oscar M. Babauta said he also supports Hunter's request, adding that "privacy should be adhered to."

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan), for his part, said he "leaves the decision up to the election commission to run a clean and peaceful election."

"If they feel that cell phones and cameras would hamper the election process in any way, then we shall follow that policy," Camacho said.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said voters should be allowed to carry cell phones in the voting booths and it would be up to each voter to decide what to do when they are inside the voting booth to

cast their vote, including taking photo of their ballot using their cell phone "because it is their own ballot."

He said he does not support Hunter's request.

"It is nonsense. People are getting paranoid," Torres added.

Hunter's request to the commission was prompted by community members' reports that they have been "requested to take photos of their ballots within the polls in order to confirm their vote to others."

"The request to take a photo of one's ballot violates every voter's constitutional right to secrecy in voting (CNMI Constitution, Article VIII Section 3)," Hunter said. "I hope that CEC will do the right thing and imple-

ment this requested regulation as soon as possible."

The allegations point to the Republican Party, headed by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, as behind the idea of taking photos of one's ballot.

The GOP is denying making such suggestions or requests to voters, saying, "It is becoming clear that the governor's detractors are running out of false accusations to throw out there." It also said it does not meddle in the decisions of the election commission.

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CITIZENS UNITED FOR CLEAN GOVERNMENT

A mass rally sponsored by concerned citizens for clean government will be held on Saturday, October 27, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 3: 00 p.m. at Minachom Atdao pavilion.

All residents interested in returning POWER TO THE PEOPLE are urged to attend. Candidates from the COVENANT PARTY, DEMOCRATIC PARTY, INDEPENDENTS, and INDEPENDENT REPUBLICANS are also urged to attend.

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Man, 34, gets 3 years for sex abuse of minor

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday slapped a three-year prison term on a 34-year-old man who sexually abused a girl several times since last year when she was just 15 years old.

Wiseman sentenced James Patrick Al-

dan to eight years in prison, all suspended except for three years, for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree. He was given credit for time served.

After completing his sentence, Aldan will be placed on probation for five years. He was ordered to pay a \$350

fine, \$100 in court costs, and \$500 in probation fees.

Aldan was required to perform 100 hours of community service and to register as a sex offender.

AG

From Page 1

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the Fitial administration's position is that San Nicolas "meets the requirement."

However, the Fitial administration has already asked a legal review on the matter.

"Mr. San Nicolas never claimed residency in any other jurisdiction. Even during the time he worked in Guam, Mr. San Nicolas continued to be an active registered and participating voter in the CNMI," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

San Nicolas himself said he worked at the Guam AG's Office from February 2011 to January 2012.

"Although I worked in Guam, I maintained a residence in the CNMI, never changed voting district," he said.

The determination now rests with the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations, which is reviewing San Nicolas' nomination as the highest law enforcement officer in the CNMI.

The governor announced his appointment of San Nicolas to serve as acting AG on Tuesday afternoon and advised him to "follow the law," over two months since the controversial departure from the CNMI of former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the EAGI Committee, said the Senate legal counsel is now looking into the governor's appointment of San Nicolas, including his residency and whether it meets the constitutional requirement.

San Nicolas' appointment requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

Article III Section 11 of the CNMI Constitution reads in part, "The attorney general shall be a resident and a domiciliary of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for at least three years immediately preceding the date on which the attorney general is confirmed."

Review, public hearing

The Senate's EAGI Committee oversees the review of the nominee's qualification and makes recommendation to the full Senate whether to confirm or reject him.

Cruz's panel, however, has yet to schedule a public hearing on San Nicolas' nomination pending the submission to the Senate of a copy of his statement of financial interest filed with the Office of the Public Auditor,

According to the plea agreement, on Aug. 30, 2011, on Saipan, Aldan took off all his clothes and played with his privates in the presence of the girl. He also reached for the girl's breast and

resume, police clearance and evidence of compliance with the mandatory drug screening.

Cruz said that, although he personally knows that San Nicolas has the capability and knowledge to become the next CNMI attorney general, the EAGI Committee has to make sure his appointment meets the requirements of laws and the Constitution.

"This guy, for me, is qualified to be an AG but like I said, if there's something that we find that violates the Constitution or any law, then that's something that we have to inform the governor," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

The concern about San Nicolas' residency is made more pronounced in the wake of the Commonwealth Election Commission's decision yesterday to disqualify Democratic Party candidate Jesse Torres over a residency issue.

But Demapan said "as opposed to candidate Torres, when he registered to vote in Guam, he essentially relinquished his residency status in here to claim residency in Guam."

"To further affirm its position, the administration has requested a legal review of this matter. I will make the findings and review available once it is completed," Demapan said.

The CNMI has never had a permanent attorney general since Buckingham left the island and resigned for the second time in early August.

Fitial named Viola Alepuyo as acting attorney general, until an AG nominee's name is submitted to the Senate for confirmation.

The governor said he asked San Nicolas to become the next AG within days after Buckingham decided not to come back to the CNMI for good.

San Nicolas is currently staff attorney at the Commonwealth Ports Authority. He also worked at the Public Defender's Office.

'Attorney general's statement'

At 8:06pm last night, the CNMI Office of the Attorney General issued a statement further explaining the Fitial administration's position on San Nicolas' residency.

"The Office of the Attorney General has advised the governor that after a review of Mr. San Nicolas' employment with the Guam Attorney Generals' Office, he does qualify to be appointed Attorney General," the OAG's two-page statement said.

The OAG also cited Article III Section 11 of the NMI Constitution on the

asked her to have sex with her.

Between March 17-31, 2012, the defendant fondled the girl's breast while playing with himself. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

residency requirement.

The OAG said "CNMI statutes and case law provide guidance how a person is to determine one's residency and/or domiciliary. See 1 CMC §§ 6202, 6203, and 6204."

It said "a person's domicile means a place where a person intends to '... return and from which he has no present plans to depart.' It does not mean it is a temporary or special home. *Rajapaksha v. Jaweera*, 5 N.M.I. 87 (1997). A person's residence is defined as '... that place in which the persons habitation is fixed, and to which, whenever the person is absent, the person has the intention to return.' 1 CMC § 6204(a)."

The OAG statement said San Nicolas "considers Tinian his home; that is where he was raised; the place he always returns to after absences due to education or employment. Mr. San Nicolas and his family lived in the mainland when he was in college. When he graduated, they all moved back home to Tinian."

In February 2011, San Nicolas accepted a position at the Guam Attorney General's Office.

His family joined him in Guam but when he returned to the CNMI to be the in-house counsel for the Commonwealth Ports Authority in January 2012, San Nicolas' family was already back on Tinian, the place where he intends to always return to, his residence, his domiciliary, the OAG said.

The OAG said there has been a comparison made with San Nicolas' residency matter with that of a recently disqualified political candidate.

It said the most obvious difference between the two is that the disqualified candidate registered to vote in Guam in 2010, "thereby relinquishing his residency in the CNMI. See 1 CMC § 6204(g) (A person loses his residence in this Commonwealth if the person registers to vote in another state or area under the United States or other jurisdiction)."

"Mr. San Nicolas has always maintained his residency and domiciliary in the CNMI and has never registered to vote anywhere other than the CNMI, or specifically, Tinian. Let us all congratulate Mr. San Nicolas on his recent appointment and join the people of Tinian as they rejoice in celebrating the great accomplishments of one of their sons. The people of Tinian have earned the right to be proud of Mr. San Nicolas, who, upon Senate confirmation, will be highest law enforcement officer for the entire Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands," the OAG added.

MOE

From Page 1

2009 under the state fiscal stabilization fund. Of this amount, the bulk of \$32.4 million was given to PSS, with a maintenance-of-effort requirement in place. At that time, it the CNMI government was required to match each grant dollar with 40 cents. This calculation was later changed by USDOE, using instead the percentage point, which is 25 percent of the overall government budget.

Sablan disclosed that the CNMI filed the waiver application in August this year. The application, he added, was only made available by the CNMI government to the USDOE.

"Our government submitted the MOE waiver in August. You haven't seen the application, I haven't seen the application. We learned, however, that the application is under review. There are issues that the application lacks sufficiency, issues of revenue calculations and methodology used. This is why USDOE has requested data deemed acceptable to the MOE calculation...because it appears the NMI application included inconsistencies with prior years' funding submissions. That in itself, is a violation of the MOE," Sablan told the BOE.

Sablan disclosed that the CNMI government, pursuant to the USDOE request, is preparing two new submissions to the federal agency: 1.) The government calculation of MOE using the old formula; and 2.) Calculation of MOE using the new methodology used by the CNMI.

\$7M still owed to PSS

PSS federal programs officer Tim Thornburgh and financial consultant Ed Tenorio disclosed yesterday that PSS is still owed by the central government a little over \$7 million for the unmet maintenance-of-effort in fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

The original amount, they said, was \$11 million but in the latter part of last school year, the central government remitted some \$2.6 million for personnel salary.

According to Sablan, no other state and territory has failed to meet the MOE requirement thus far. Although states may have several issues with the calculation, no one has failed to meet the requirement.

The CNMI, he said, is faced with serious trouble if USDOE decides to require the CNMI to return the \$44 million that was previously awarded. He said this may negatively impact all federal grants to the CNMI.

As process, Sablan said, USDOE may hold off releasing other federal monies until such time that the CNMI returns in full the \$44 million SFSF.

If and when a decision is to be made, Sablan said, it will be up to the USDOE.

Letter to Duncan

Yesterday, Sablan sent a letter to USDOE Secretary Arne Duncan, seeking a status update on the MOE waiver application submitted by the CNMI for fiscal year 2010.

"The Department of Education's Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs has previously informed me that the department's SFSF Implementation and Support Unit has received the CNMI waiver application, but that there are issues with the supporting documentation and with the calculation methodology the CNMI proposes to use. This application is not available for public inspection. The CNMI-PSS, which is the primary beneficiary of the MOE requirement, has reviewed relevant financial information that is public record and concluded that the CNMI has not met its local funding obligation under the terms of SFSF grant," stated Sablan in his letter to Duncan dated Oct. 24.

Sablan, in the same letter, indicated that his concern is that "if local funding has not been maintained in accordance with the requirements of the original SFSF grant, then students and educators in the CNMI may have been short-changed for a number of school years."

"I respectfully request that the USDOE make the SFSF MOE waiver application for [fiscal year] 2010, submitted by the CNMI, available for inspection and that the department resolve this matter in a timely fashion, providing full and fair consideration, consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations," stated Sablan, adding that if CNMI students are entitled to a greater level of financial support under the terms of an agreement between the CNMI and the federal government, then the USDOE must ensure that support is quickly forthcoming.

LONE

From Page 1

in the Commonwealth at least 120 days prior to the election date.

The law also restricts residents of the CNMI from serving as House representative if they have resided in the jurisdiction for less than three years.

Torres, to meet this three-year residency requirement for a candidate, has to wait until January 2013.

Based on documents presented to the commission, Alepuyo disclosed that Torres failed to vote in the 2003 general election. On Sept. 9, 1999, Torres changed his residency from Chalan Kanoa District 3, Precinct 2 to Kagman, former Precinct 1D and now Precinct 5. On March 31, 2004, Torres

re-registered to vote in Precinct 2 and transferred again to Precinct 1D (now Precinct 5) on Sept. 15, 2005.

On Oct. 22, 2010, Torres registered to vote in Precinct 14A in Guam as a resident of the Maite Mongmong area.

Anonymous caller

Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his office received information from an anonymous caller around 3pm and 4pm on Oct. 22, asking him to look into Torres' residency status.

Guerrero immediately made inquiries and referred the matter to the Office of the Attorney General. On Tuesday morning, the Guam Election Commission confirmed that Torres is still a registered voter in Guam.

When asked why the commission didn't catch the problem earlier, or as soon as Torres filed his candidacy, Guerrero said there's nothing in the law that mandates the commission to check a candidate's registration in other jurisdiction. Once they receive such information, however, the commission looks into the issue, he added.

"We don't go out on a witch hunt, unless we were given a reason to," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that investigation was conducted by the OAG, which endorsed the decision to the commission board.

7-day due process

During yesterday's meeting, board chair Frances Sablan said that Torres has seven days starting yesterday to appeal the decision.

If Torres decides to appeal, it should be filed in court, which will make the determination in the case, she added. In case no appeal is made, Torres' name will then be stricken out from the ballots.

Torres was represented yesterday at the meeting by his wife, Joan T. Deleon Guerrero, who officially received the formal board notice. She told *Saipan Tribune* that her husband has yet to decide what his next action will be

Worst-case scenario

Torres is one of the six individuals running as representative for Precinct 5. Because only two will be chosen as winners, "if this case becomes an issue of election contest, the commission—in a worst case scenario—may re-do the election only on Precinct 5,"

according to Guerrero.

Prior to filing their candidacies, candidates swear under penalty of perjury that they meet all the requirements of Public Law 12-18. Torres was among those who signed this document.

When asked about the possibility of prosecuting Torres if it is proven that he violated the law, Guerrero said this has not been discussed yet by the commission board. But he said any decision to prosecute lies with the OAG, not the commission board.

"That's something...we haven't gone that far yet. Our concern now is to get the election over with. But for any decision whether to prosecute depends on the AG."

During yesterday's deliberation, Alepuyo pointed out that "ignorance of the law is not an excuse."

Notorious burglar caught on video gets 5 years in jail

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Martin T. Castro Jr., a notorious burglar facing charges for robbing a car rental company and sexually assaulting its employee, pleaded guilty yesterday in Superior Court and was sentenced to five years in prison without the possibility of parole.

The 26-year-old Castro pleaded guilty to burglary and theft as part of a plea deal. He also admitted to violating his probation in a criminal conviction in 2010.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman sentenced Castro to a total of 10 years, all suspended except for five years, with credit time served. After serving his sentence, he will be placed on supervised probation for five years.

Castro was also ordered to pay a \$200 fine, \$500 in probation fees, and \$100 in court costs. He was required to pay restitution to QQ Car Rental and its employee.

Castro was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service and submit to a drug abuse evaluation.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Castro with 10 criminal counts.

In addition, the OAG filed a notice of revocation hearing, alleging several violations of his terms and conditions of probation for a previous criminal case in 2010.

In exchange for pleading guilty to burglary and theft and admitting to a violation of probation, the government dropped the remaining charges.

Castro entered QQ Car Rental in Susupe on June 2, 2012, attacked its employee, and took \$500 from her. He noticed a surveillance camera in the establishment so he removed it and threw it from the window. It landed in a grassy area and police managed to recover it and review the footage, resulting in the identification of Castro.

At the time, the defendant was still on probation in connection with a 2010 burglary case to which he pleaded guilty. He also pleaded guilty in another burglary case in 2005.

In September 2010, Wiseman imposed a one-year prison term on Castro for stealing a laptop.

"You're already 24 years old. Change your criminal career," Wiseman at that time told Castro.

WESPAC eyes no change in catch limits for NMI fishery

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is expected to act soon on a recommendation proposing that the 2013 annual catch limits for the CNMI's spiny lobster, slipper, Kona crab, deepwater shrimp, black coral, and other precious coral match last year's quotas.

The recommendation is one of several made by the council's Scientific and Statistical Committee or SSC, which determines the limit that can sustainably be removed from each fish stock in federally managed fisheries within U.S. Pacific Islands.

SSC also recommended that biennial annual catch limits for bottomfish in the Northern Marianas be considered based on recent stock assessment by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Last year, it was set at 182,500 lbs.

Upon the recommendations of SSC and other advisory bodies, the council will set the 2013 annual quotas when it convenes for its 155th meeting from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1 at the Laniakea YWCA-Fuller Hall in Honolulu, Hawaii.

In setting the annual catch limits, or ACLs, the council will take into account the acceptable biological catch, ABCs, together with social, economic, cultural, and man-

agement uncertainty factors and these ACLs may not exceed the ABCs.

Congress has required that federal fisheries be managed through ACLs beginning in 2012 through the 2006 reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The council, however, adopted a "precautionary approach" in specifying the 2012 ACLs given the available data, which only covers a limited amount of the total fishing mortality in the Western Pacific Region.

The agenda for next week's meeting will include the management of the gold coral fishery in the Western Pacific Region, which has been under a five-year moratorium that will expire on Sept. 11, 2013; the review of the Science Plan for the NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center, which will guide decision-making within the agency, increase transparency, and identify core monitoring and research activities to be conducted under stringent budget scenarios; and the review of research on the connectivity of main Hawaiian Islands bottomfish stocks.

For more information, visit www.wpcouncil.org, email info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov, call (808) 522-8220 or fax (808) 522-8226.

Pinktober 2012 set for Friday

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

Continuing its breast cancer awareness advocacy, Hard Rock Café Saipan will host anew the Pinktober Concert celebration on Friday, Oct. 26.

Entrance fee is \$11 per person and includes one beverage. Doors open at 6pm for Friday's event, which will feature performances by Afetnas, Absolute 3, Jerry and the Gigolo's, Capas, and Marvin Espeleta, as well as "pink" menu offerings.

Kenneth M. Geronimo, regional assistant general manager for Hard Rock Café Guam

& Saipan, said in an email that more than half of the proceeds will go to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

CCA is a community-based non-profit group dedicated to promoting cancer awareness and prevention, providing patient support services, and serving as the liaison and advocate for cancer issues in the Northern Marianas.

According to Geronimo, almost 300 tickets have already been sold for the event that is supported by various companies on island, including Cen-

tury Tours, Delta Air Lines, Foremost, Luen Fung, and Marpac.

He encouraged the community to support and participate in the annual signature fundraising event of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the CNMI, now on its third year on Saipan and the 13th year for Hard Rock International.

"Hard Rock Café Saipan hopes to raise funds again for the [CCA] for its heroic projects and breast cancer awareness campaigns," Geronimo told *Saipan Tribune*.

Limited edition Pinktober merchandise such as T-shirts, pins, bracelets, and sunglasses

will also be sold at the event, and proceeds from the sale will benefit two groups.

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation is an independent not-for-profit organization founded in 1993 by Evelyn H. Lauder and committed to funding scientific research to achieve prevention and a cure for breast cancer in our lifetime. Meanwhile, The Caron Keating Foundation offers financial support to professional carers, complimentary healing practitioners, and support groups dealing with cancer patients, and individuals and families who are affected by the disease.

For more information, call 233-ROCK (7625).

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Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives

Hospital short of 26 critical posts, 20 nurses in key units

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite efforts of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to address the immediate jeopardy status slapped on the Commonwealth Health Center by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the hospital will remain noncompliant with federal standards if the corporation doesn't do more to hire and retain personnel, according to a CHC official.

In a letter to the corporation board, hospital services director Karen Buettner urged the board to take the necessary steps to hire and replace personnel.

Buettner said that CHC's current staffing problem is impacting the "Conditions of Participation for CMS certification" and is risking the federal dollars being received by the hospital from Medicare.

She specifically cited the need for adequate staffing in several departments to ensure patient safety and meet the CMS requirements. These include the need for three certified nurse midwives, three respiratory therapists, two laboratory technicians, one laboratory manager, one laboratory director, one quality management coordinator, one infection control coordinator, one inpatient pharmacist, one registered nurse to be assigned at the Department of Corrections, one social worker,

one dietician, one staff developer, one physical therapist, two internal medicine physicians, and six mid-level providers.

Buettner told the board that the corporation has had an "exceptionally high" staff turnover rate this year in all areas of CHC and that recruitment efforts have not been able to keep up with the exodus. She added that the needed positions are also not generally filled by local hires.

"Without funding to hire the staff for hard-to-fill areas—staff required by CMS—plus replace or replenish some of the staff who have resigned, the hospital will remain out of compliance with CMS," Buettner told the board.

The director disclosed that during her July trip to meet federal health officials, Medicare repeatedly reminded them that CHC has been out of compliance with the Condition of Participation since 2010 and "this cannot continue."

30 nurses resign; only 10 hired

As of Aug. 4, corporation records show that CHC lost 30 nurses since the start of last fiscal year. In April this year, 24 foreign contract workers with eligibility status on Saipan were interviewed for nursing positions. However, only 10 have been hired since August.

"This still leaves gaps in our ability to reduce overtime and adequately staff the units," said Buettner, adding that there is a request to fill vacancies in the outpatient clinics with "graduate nurses" who have completed their nursing education but have not passed the NCLEX.

It was also disclosed to the

board that CHC has several units where nursing posts are harder to fill due to the amount of experience required prior to employment. It was also learned that new graduates or non-expe-

rienced nurses are generally not placed in these units due to the need for solid advanced assessment skills. These units include the emergency unit, intensive care unit, operating room, hemodialysis unit, neonatal intensive care unit, and labor and delivery.

Exit strategy

One of the corporation's board members, Anthony Raho, believes that more nursing staff may leave their posts once they receive the full payment of their retirement contributions.

Raho, in a recent letter to board members, disclosed that

he had talked with many hospital staff and most have either already decided to leave or are already planning their exit strategy.

The board did not discuss any specific decisions on the staffing problem at its recent meeting.

Civil rights icon John Lewis urges Northern Marianas voters... Re-elect Kilili

Fellow Americans,

My life has been focused on achieving equality for all.

So it was with great pleasure that I voted in 2008 to give the people of the Northern Mariana Islands representation in the U.S. Congress.

It has been a pleasure, too, working with the first man you elected to represent you, Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan.

Mr. Sablan is a tireless advocate for principles I believe in: making sure that the people of the Northern Marianas have the same rights and privileges as other Americans, working to ensure that you are included in federal programs where you were previously forgotten.

This is work that takes dedication and determination. I know that from my own work in the Civil Rights Movement. But these are qualities of character that Congressman Sablan has in abundance.

When you exercise your right to vote on November 6, you will do well to vote for Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan.

Respectfully yours,

John Lewis
Rep. John Lewis
Member of Congress

Not Printed as Governmental Expense



"Mr. Sablan is a tireless advocate for principles I believe in: making sure that the people of the Northern Marianas have the same rights and privileges as other Americans..."

-- Rep. John Lewis

Paid for by *Kilili* for Congress

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Gene's Barber burglary

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at Gene's Barber in Garapan, across the Mobil Gas Station on Chalan Pale Arnold Road.

On Friday morning, Oct. 19, 2012, about 10am, employees at the barbershop discovered the crime when they opened for business. The point of entry was through a window-type air conditioning unit that was pushed in, allowing the suspect(s) access into the barbershop. A brown wallet, company checks, three passports, four trimming scissors, and over \$300 cash were taken. The total amount of the stolen items is estimated at over \$600.

The barbershop was secured the night before at 7pm. The crime was committed sometime between then and the time it was discovered the next morning at 10am.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime Stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. (Crime Stoppers)



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Nishida, Sandbergen top Sengebau poetry tilt

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Marianas Baptist Academy eighth grader and a Tinian Jr./Sr. High School junior outdid their contenders in their respective categories at the 9th Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition held Tuesday night at the American Memorial Park Visitors Center Theater.

MBA's Yuuki Nishida bagged first place in the Junior Division with his reading of the poem titled *Old Man and the World* during the yearly contest hosted by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

Nishida and eight other Junior Division contestants were tasked to choose among Sengebau's literary pieces in *Micro-child*, an anthology of poems



9th Annual Valentine N. Sengebau Poetry Competition winners Kyle David Manuel Sandbergen and Yuuki Nishida, center, hold their perpetual plaques for a souvenir photo with Northern Marianas Humanities Council board director Michael White and competition judges Emelinda E. Cabrera, Catherine R. Perry, and Robert H. Hunter following the awarding ceremony Tuesday night at the American Memorial Park.

PHOTOS BY CLARISSA V. DAVID



Junior Division winners led by first placer Yuuki Nishida of Marianas Baptist Academy, center, are flanked by other division participants.



First placer Kyle David Manuel Sandbergen, center, and other winners under the Senior Division smile for a group photo.

composed by the late Palauan poet and published by the council in 2004.

"I like this poem because of the simplicity of its message and how true it is to almost everyone," said the son of Tomohiko and Victoria Nishida of the poem, which talks about how *Marianas Variety* provided the author company through different periods of his life.

The 12-year-old Nishida, who won honorable mention in last year's competition, said he prepared for the contest but didn't expect to win. "I'm very happy," he said, heaving a sigh of relief. "I like to thank everyone who helped me. I'm happy to be in this place and I'm most likely to join again next year."

Nishida's coach, MBA teacher George Gomez, described his student as "very talented" and has brought honor to the school

by joining other speech competitions, including the National Forensic League.

The panel of judges was composed of Emelinda E. Cabrera, Robert H. Hunter, and Catherine R. Perry. The criteria for judging the recital facet of the contest were eye contact, body language, voice quality, clarity of language, and overall impact.

Winning second place in the Junior Division is Leona Dela Cruz of TJSHS, third place is Mina Ito of Grace Christian Academy, and honorable mentions are Jayrald Mercene of Hopwood Jr. High School and Rachel Palijo of MBA.

Meanwhile, Kyle David Manuel Sandbergen's original piece titled *Time Heals All* won him first place in the Senior Division, which saw 13 other participants in the category that required contenders to read their

own poems.

Content judges Reo N. Arriola, Viola S. Deleon Guerrero, and Maranda J. Smith evaluated the entries based on the poems' ideas, language and imagery, content and theme, and overall impact. Content counted for 60 percent while recital made up for 40 percent of the overall score.

Sandbergen explained his poem thus: "There's a lot of people pointing fingers, a lot of political leaders pointing at other people because of stuff they did wrong. I just noticed that in order to find the solutions to our problems, we have to be willing to compromise."

The TJSHS junior, who was self-taught and joined the contest for the third time, revealed that he composed his winning poem a day before the auditions on Tinian.

Sandbergen encouraged other

students who want to join the contest to expand their vocabulary by reading more books "and put it into your arsenal of words," adding that he also plans to join next year's contest.

Both first placers received perpetual plaques, which now carry their names and their respective schools, from Humanities Council board director Michael White.

Other Senior Division winners were second placer Beda Mundo of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr./Sr. High School, third placer Randee-jo Barcinas and Mona Manglona of RHIJSHS, and honorable mentions Frank Rabauliman Jr. of the Northern Marianas Academy, and Tiana Ranjo of MBA.

Council executive director Scott Russell said he was impressed with the students' talent,

Continued on Next Page

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 25, 1999

Teno extends state of emergency anew

For the third time since July, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has declared a state of disaster emergency in the CNMI after a volcano north of Saipan remains to be a danger for residents due to potential major eruptions within the next few months. In extending an earlier warning issued last Friday, the governor has kept the island of Alamagan at high risk for habitation and travel, thus restricting activities there only to scientific expeditions to monitor the volcano. Residents of Alamagan, however, have already fled the northern island after the government forbade travels to the area.

SGMA urges fair coverage of CNMI issues at WTO

When the World Trade Organization meets late next month in Seattle, organizations ranging from labor unions and consumer groups to hard-line environmentalists and Third World peasant movements are planning major demonstrations. The Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association has urged the Seattle Times to rethink its past coverage, particularly of partial settlements by clothing retailers named in the class action lawsuits filed last January. Stories in the Times and throughout the stateside media presented this as a big victory for workers and the human rights groups supporting them, which proves that all claims of bad treatment and worker abuse on Saipan are true.

Oct. 25, 2000

CPA eyes reinstatement of overtime work

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is seriously looking at the possibility of allowing employees to work beyond the regular 80 hours per pay period but only under specific situations that may require their presence either at the airport or the harbor. CPA Board finance chair Roman T. Tudela said the agency's current financial situation can allow the reinstatement of overtime compensation, which was previously suspended due to austerity measures, but only under strict enforcement. In order to prevent possible abuse of the proposed reinstatement of overtime compensation, Mr. Tudela said Executive Director Carlos H. Salas or his designee should have the sole authority and discretion to approve overtime requests.

\$500K civil suit filed against 2 Koreans

A Chinese national yesterday filed a \$500,000 civil suit before the Superior Court against Hwang Keum Ja and Yoo Jung Ki for allegedly holding her hostage and forcing her to sign a document transferring her leasehold interest to a property in Chalan Laulau to the two Korean nationals. The complaint filed by Shen Shun AI through lawyer Joseph Aldan Arriola asked the court to declare null and void the lease agreement. Another woman was included in the complaint but her identity is still unknown. According to the complaint, Ms. AI was picked up by an unidentified woman on or about Feb. 21, 1999 at her living quarters to accompany her to Koblerville where they picked up Ms. Ja. They all proceeded to BJ Garden Restaurant located in Garapan.

Oct. 25, 2001

Tinian Dynasty asks court to review DEQ's decision

Judicial review is being sought over a Division of Environmental Quality decision that denied the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's application to operate power generators within its hotel premises. Through counsel G. Anthony Long, the Hong Kong Entertainment Overseas Investment Ltd., which operated the Tinian Dynasty, has asked the Superior Court to set aside the government agency's action and declare the decision unlawful. In a civil action suit filed before the local judiciary Tuesday, Tinian Dynasty accused DEQ of violating CNMI laws and regulations when it rendered a decision to reject the hotel-casino's application for an operating permit.

Nursing program receives donations

Donations from three community groups afforded the Northern Marianas College's Nursing Program to purchase two patient care simulators that will enhance hands-on student learning in health care. With the financial assistance offered by the Office of Rep. Malua T. Peter, the Para Hita Ghiisch and the CHC Volunteers' Association, the Nursing Program was able to procure a pair of adult and infant mannequins, costing over \$6,000. "[With the patient care simulators], we can do all the great, fun things that people would rather not have us do to them. It has different wounds that students can use for dressing, [among other functions]," said Nursing Instructor Jan Tatum.

From Page 8

ability, and willingness to perform before a large crowd. "I'm very happy that the Council is able to foster and encourage the literary skills of our students through this annual competition," he said.

Russell said he was also pleased that Tinian and Rota students took part in this year's event and thanked the Tan Siu Lin Foundation for providing the students with hotel accommodations while on island.

Michael White of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council Board awards a certificate to Beda Mundo of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School for winning second place in the senior division.



Board director Michael White of the Northern Marianas Humanities Council presents a certificate to third placers Randee-jo Barcinas and Mona Manglona of Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. & Sr. High School.



Grace Christian Academy's Mina Ito, who won third place in the Junior Division, recites her piece.

Marianas Baptist Academy eighth grader Yuuki Nishida is joined by his parents Tomohiko and Victoria Nishida after Tuesday's event.



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS RFP13-GOV-018

Program Management: CNMI Water Task Force



Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Request for Proposals for Program Management for the Water Task Force on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Drive, Saipan, on or after October 25, 2012.

Questions regarding this Request for Proposal must be submitted in writing to **CNMI Water Task Force**, by facsimile to **(670) 664-2279**, no later than October 29, 2012.

This project is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from DOI/OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-210. Preference per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118 is not available in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funds for this project.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"Program Management" RFP13-GOV-018**. One (1) original and four (4) copies must be submitted. Sealed proposals must be received by the **Director of Procurement and Supply, at Lower Base Drive, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m., (CNMI local Time) November 9, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interest of the CNMI. All proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/BENIGNO R. FITIAL
Governor

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply



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Kilili for Congress

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Presidential debate: Romney endorses Obama

Monday's presidential debate, the third and last between President Obama and Gov. Mitt Romney, featured a forceful and articulate defense of Obama's foreign policy. That was no surprise. What was surprising was that it came from Romney.

That seemed to annoy the president—who was prepared to rebut his opponent's previous, more bellicose pronouncements. But the ever-shifting Republican nominee tacked even closer to the moderate middle than he did in the debate devoted to economic policy.

Once Romney intimated that he might keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan past NATO's 2014 deadline. No more. Now he agrees with Obama that it is feasible to transfer combat responsibilities to the Afghans by that point. On Iran, Romney emphasized economic sanctions rather than the threat of a military attack, effectively endorsing Obama's approach. On Syria, Romney disappointed some of his neoconservative supporters by forswearing direct U.S. military intervention or the establishment of a no-fly zone. There was no call for returning U.S. forces to Iraq, though Romney continued to accuse Obama of bungling negotiations aimed at keeping a small residual force there.

Yes, there were nuances of difference. Obama says the U.S. won't allow Iran to develop a nuclear weapon, while Romney continued to describe the red line as "nuclear capability." And Romney didn't discard his more sweeping indictments of Obama's foreign policy. He dusted off his canard that the president had conducted an "apology tour" through the Middle East. To be clear: Obama has not apologized for American influence; every time Romney says otherwise, he reinforces the many reasons to distrust his honesty.

Even Romney's rhetoric was less bluster in the debate than it has been on the campaign trail. A viewer who hadn't tuned into the campaign before Monday night might have wondered what all the shouting was about. Both candidates support withdrawal from Afghanistan, a careful courtship of Syrian opposition forces, the continued targeting of suspected terrorists by drones, and the leveraging of military aid to induce Egypt and other nations where Islamists are ascendant to respect the rights of women and religious minorities. Both want to engage China in trade, but press it to play fair.

If Romney believes in a thoughtful and centrist foreign policy, which he hadn't until Monday night, it would argue for his candidacy. But if that vision is attractive—and it is—why not stick with the president who is already pursuing it?

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Kilili III

Two years ago, we ventured into the local political scene on the Washington rep election, which at the time had the incumbent facing three very powerful personae. They clamored to take over the office's function since it became officially a part of the nation's congressional process with the budget to go with it.

One candidate was a former House floor leader, another a former Washington rep and governor, and a former lieutenant governor, all high caliber politicians representing established political parties in the CNMI.

One happened to have the governor's support. He was lagging in the polls, so the AG gave him a boost on the official I-am-in-your-debt political circus. Prodded or acting on his own, ex-AG Ed Buckingham got a nasty backlash on that indiscretion.

As one of my Republican friends said when she noticed that I sided with the donkeys more often than with the elephants, she would be the last one to wish for the elimination of an opposition in any level of the American political system since the gift of the 236-year-old political experiment is the presence of choices, representing differing positions to offer electorates options.

Ignacia Demapan, PhD, is a highly regarded PSS officer who showed both discipline and talent in managing the affairs of Kagman Elementary School where she served as principal. That must be why our former BoE teachers' rep Ambrose B. is drumming up support to her election to the Washington rep office since she is eminently qualified. He argues for her Republican Party credentials as favorable to the Commonwealth's interest in the current Congress. If she were a Republican in the tradition of Thomas Jefferson and Abe Lincoln, I would lend an ear. Nay, will even lead the chorus. More so that she is a woman, for we certainly can use more feminine touch in the affairs of government.

She is, however, running against the record of the incumbent, which is nothing but sterling on the islands' political ledger. The office's assessment measure, as it is with other reps in other jurisdictions, is a congressperson's ability to bring the federal bacon ashore, and though Kilili has been accused by opponents of claiming more than what he is due, the march of resources and funds from Washington in the last two terms has transpired during his watch, and he would be forgiven if his signature shows up in the flow.

Kilili is, of course, more than just a conduit of assets and resources from the Great White Father by the Potomac (though of the last two Democrats in the White House, Bill Clinton has been referred to as the blackest whitey that ever came out of Arkansas, while Obama is the Chicago mulatto white boy of Kansas-Kenya pedigree, so GWF as a benevolent term does not apply in the current term). We did describe Kilili's style earlier as embracing the politics of presence, gratitude, justice, and participation. We will not repeat ourselves. He has been around long enough for people to make a judgment on his style and the

By JAIME R. VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.



substance of his service, and decide whether we come close to accurate or just fallen into daydreaming.

We were earlier called to task for using the word "clannish" in our characterization of CNMI politics. The joust was not too heavy on attrition. Our critic happened to be brother to one of our colleagues who immediately told his younger brother that CNMI politics is clannish, and that was the end of that!

Of course, clannish is not a term we use to refer to the Kennedys, Jerry Brown, Romney, Cuomo, Daley, etc., but the dynastic line is unmistakable even in democracies (majority of the current sitting legislators of the Philippine Congress are traceable to the 600 land-owning Filipino families who staffed the 1935 Commonwealth of the Philippines' Legislature), and also to Chinese personality cults (e.g., Bo Xilai), or the Lee Kwan Yew lineage in Singapore. Ms. Demapan, daughter of former Saipan Mayor Juan Tudela, is said to have a large family that extends all the way to Rota. There is no apology for the invocation that beyond filial fealty is filial loyalty, about which the Demapans spread a wide net.

That Kilili's Camacho-Sablan name becomes more prominent at election time goes with the territory. The Camachos and the Sablans are no mean clans to disregard either, though they are hardly united or homogenous. It is just as well. It bodes well as a fledgling Commonwealth democracy if we learn to vote along ken rather than kin.

So, Nov. 6 is a day of reckoning. The nation's choice of Obama or Romney is a choice of the nation's direction. I am going with Obama and if my reading of the national pulse is right, we might have a majority on this score.

Kilili heading for a third term is what the political winds are indicating. It was helpful that DPL, in what appears to be spasms of self-destruction, attempted to check if the congressman was abiding by campaign rules when he and his wife showed up for a street-waving at the Microl corner. Thank you DPL for the (perhaps) unintentional harassment perception!

Kilili represents a new way of doing politics in the Commonwealth as Obama has shown relative to the nation. Ms. Demapan could very well be a progressive politician as well, but she will have to wait her turn on this one, or learn from the experience, and seek other venues of service later.

Will go for Kilili III.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Tell Jeremy: China's not the problem

Jeremy, a 20-year-old junior at Adelphi University, opened the second presidential debate with a question that was not fully answered by either candidate: "What can you say to reassure me, but more importantly my parents, that I will be able to sufficiently support myself after I graduate?"

Gov. Mitt Romney talked about a vague 12 million job promise. President Obama pointed to Clinton-era economic growth.

In the course of the subsequent debate, both candidates took shots at China. There was more of the same in the final debate.

What Jeremy and others really needed to hear, however, was this: that future U.S. jobs will depend on skills; that many future jobs will be tied to the remarkable growth of China and India; that American students must be prepared to compete with 135 million—yes, million—Chinese and Indian students who will graduate from college over the next decade; and that these future Chinese and Indian competitors are highly motivated, entrepreneurial and ambitious, with a work ethic like nothing you've seen in your life.

Government can't guarantee that Jeremy will have the skills and drive to compete. Only he can do this.

According to our best estimates, China and India combined will be spending some \$10 trillion per year by 2020—more than three times what they spent in 2010. Due to rising incomes and longer life expectancies, Chinese children born in 2009 will likely consume approximately 38 times more than their grandparents during their lives; Indian babies will consume 13 times more than their forbears. China's upper-income bracket will nearly quadruple, from 24 million to 91 million households; its middle class will grow from 109 million to 202 million households. India's upper-income bracket

will increase from about nine million to 32 million households and its middle class from 63 million to 117 million households.

Jeremy and other Americans shouldn't fear their success. They need to participate in it.

As hundreds of millions of new middle-class consumers enter the global marketplace, demand will increase for higher-quality, safer, sustainable food; recyclable packaging; affordable health care; occupational training; elite education for the masses; safe water; and all manner of new technologies that help solve the day-to-day problems of living in the modern world.

This is a huge opportunity, but it will not be inherited by the lazy, uneducated, fearful, or weak.

To the next generation, our leaders should say:

You live in a world being radically reshaped by global forces that you cannot see and that were virtually unknown to your parents.

These forces are epic in scale. They will shape your career prospects and fortunes. For the first time, your competitors for a job or your most important customers may be in other parts of the world, speaking different languages.

Don't envy them. The ambitious kids of China, India and other emerging markets live in cutthroat and uncertain environments, lacking many things, even clean air and fresh water, we take for granted. Tens of thousands of them would happily change places with you.

And don't begrudge their success. Just as mechanization freed our ancestors from life on the farm, the rise of China and India is creating new opportunities for all of us.

My advice to Jeremy and his classmates is this: Go live in China or India; learn Mandarin or Hindi; spend a semester or

By **MICHAEL J. SILVERSTEIN**
Boston Consulting Group



Michael J. Silverstein is a senior partner of The Boston Consulting Group and co-author, most recently, of The \$10 Trillion Prize: Captivating the Newly Affluent in China and India (Harvard Business Review Press, October 2012).

year in Beijing or Kolkata.

Also consider how important it is to choose the right college major. America's biggest need moving forward will be for biomedical engineers, network analysts, financial examiners, medical scientists, physicians' assistants, biochemists, and computer software engineers.

Your future revolves around a set of personal choices. Education, ambition, hard work, entrepreneurial energy, collaboration, and innovation are the values that will dominate your world. Those who take too much for granted, fail to invest in technology, and idle away their time on Twitter and Facebook are putting their futures at risk.

Jeremy, the choice is yours. You need to get the right credentials. Earn a degree with tangible value. Then take your drive and energy to the market and refuse to fall into the malaise of affluence.

Don't ask a presidential candidate for guarantees. Make your own guarantee.

Obama wins third debate decisively; Romney passes on big chances

By **LANE FILLER**
Newsday



Lane Filler is a member of the Newsday editorial board. His email address is lane.filler@newsday.com.

So the debate season of the 2012 presidential election has drawn to a close, capped by a foreign policy debate that centered mostly on jobs, education, tax policy and deficits in the United States.

Mitt Romney—who first endured 19 Republican primary debates before doing three with Obama—delivered an unusually subdued, and early on, stumbling, performance. Several times at Monday's debate in Boca Raton, Fla., he chided President Barack Obama for criticizing him, saying such critiques were not substitution for policies. It was an oddly delicate and, I think, inappropriate strategy in a debate that largely centered around military might and the threat of terrorism.

One of the oddest, densest assertions by both men was the idea that "the Middle East must reject extremism." Or what? Many people don't want to reject extremism, or empower women, as the two men demanded, or accept the Western style of liberty. Is that a lesson we are truly, entirely incapable of learning? Or do we think we're going to have better luck winning hearts and minds in the next series of wars?

This is true in Egypt, and Lebanon, and Libya, and Syria, and Afghanistan, and Pakistan and across the region. Significant numbers of people have no interest in what we preach. Everything we preach is right, and those who oppose it are entirely wrong, but so what? Do we really think we can impose our will?

On issue after issue the two men seemed to agree on what the policy ought to be, but Obama held a decisive advantage for a couple of reasons: First off, it looks much more powerful to be implementing foreign policy than suggesting it. That's the incumbent edge.

But Obama also came off far better in talking about the auto bailout, again, because he actually bailed out the auto industry.

And where Romney had real opportunities to score, particularly on the White House confusion of the Benghazi attacks, he chose not to. Romney's strongest point in the debate was his arguments that we must crack down on China, but even here Obama didn't lose, making a strong case that he has cracked down, and is generally handling the relationship well.

The third and final debate goes to Obama, fairly decisively, in the midst of an election that is a dead heat. Will the votes follow?

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dr. Acha Demapan prevails

They say that seeing is believing, for true. I'm sure that for many who saw the congressional debate they were convinced that Dr. Demapan is indeed a worthy candidate and even a better politician. I actually graded the debate on a 1 to 10 scale for each of the 10 questions and Dr. Demapan won with a score of 89 to 78. I know many will say I was biased but I have judged many academic competitions, including the State Level Mock Trial competition. I did my very best to be objective and I'm sure that when the general public get their opportunity on Tuesday night after the news to see the debate, they will also agree that Dr. Demapan won.

Dr. Demapan was busy telling voters what she was going to do while Kilili continued his same old reporting, talking about the people he has worked with or met and trying to justify his failures by pointing the finger at the governor on four different questions. Kilili also avoided some questions by giving long explanations and never really answering the questions. In fact, the moderator even gave him an extra question and a chance to give a direct answer because of his poor indirect response but it didn't help. Kilili even had to agree with Dr. Demapan on seven different statements that she made—I counted them.

I knew the advantage of being a Ph.D. holder would show up in the debate and it was clear who had the better thinking skills and who was better prepared—Dr. Acha. She told me later it was like defending her thesis for her Ph.D., which really prepared her for the debate. I'm sure the experience of having to answer the really hard technical questions from a group of doctors made the debate seem like child's play for her. Her performance also tells me that she will be able to do much better than Kilili in her delivery of the CNMI's position, wants, and needs to Congress, especially in her working relationships with members of Congress and with her speeches on the congressional floor.

Kilili had the nerve to boast that he didn't need a polling system when Dr. Demapan mentioned the voter polling system she is proposing. But his remarks speaks volumes as to assert that he doesn't need a poll because he represents all the people defies his own reasoning for the polls he is presently doing through his office—so which flip flop position does he really have on polls? Only someone who doesn't know very much about political science would say they don't need a poll when polls are now the main tools of political scientists. Kilili has even made public statements and predictions about the GOP recently in the news based on polls just to try and make Dr. Demapan's polling system seem insignificant! Kilili's statement also tells voters that he is representing non-locals, which is *not* his job, especially when there is a conflict in the desires of locals and non-locals. Didn't he learn anything when Tina Sablan was voted out for the same thing? It should be obvious that Kilili is doing everything and anything to get re-elected but *prove* himself

to be worthy of another term. He even injected more of his dirty and ugly politics by referencing to Dr. Demapan as the governor's delegate. He is still promoting the evil of anger, revenge, and guilt by association with the governor just to try and win and it's pathetic to see a member of Congress conduct himself in this manner.

But what really impressed me was that Kilili has been fighting the Guam delegate for the Monument and losing the fight but the idea to work with the Guam delegate to "unify the Monument with a location on Guam and in the CNMI" was truly a stroke of political genius by Dr. Demapan that even surprised me. She is sending a true indication of her political skills to stop the fighting Kilili has started with Guam's delegate, to compromise and to work together for the common good of all the people in the Marianas. The added plus is that Guam's GOP governor is already looking forward to working with Dr. Demapan.

I could go on and on with how Dr. Demapan bested Kilili in the debate but I will let the replay speak for itself because if a picture is worth a thousand words then I know the debate film will be worth millions of words and dollars to the CNMI. I'm asking all voters to tell a friend to tell another friend to see for themselves because seeing is truly believing. You will enjoy it and you will be glad you saw it for yourself.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Biba Tan Holdings' 40th anniversary






My granddaughter, Tashana G. Amin, is one of the students at Garapan Elementary School and she was chosen for a "Basket of Hope" from Tan Holdings. Her teacher told me as the legal guardian to get the Basket of Hope. Friday was the last day to pick up the basket in Lower Base so I went there. I was surprised because it was not a basket—it was big box! It would not fit in the car so I called my nephew to bring the pickup. When we went home we opened the box and wow! When I estimated it, it was worth more than \$400 and was complete, from kitchen products to bathroom items! There was cereal and a lot of canned meat! My family and I will get together to pray for Tan Holdings that they will be successful with their program. It's a big help for the community and I would like to thank them again. Biba Tan Holdings!

Teddy Guiao
Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 81

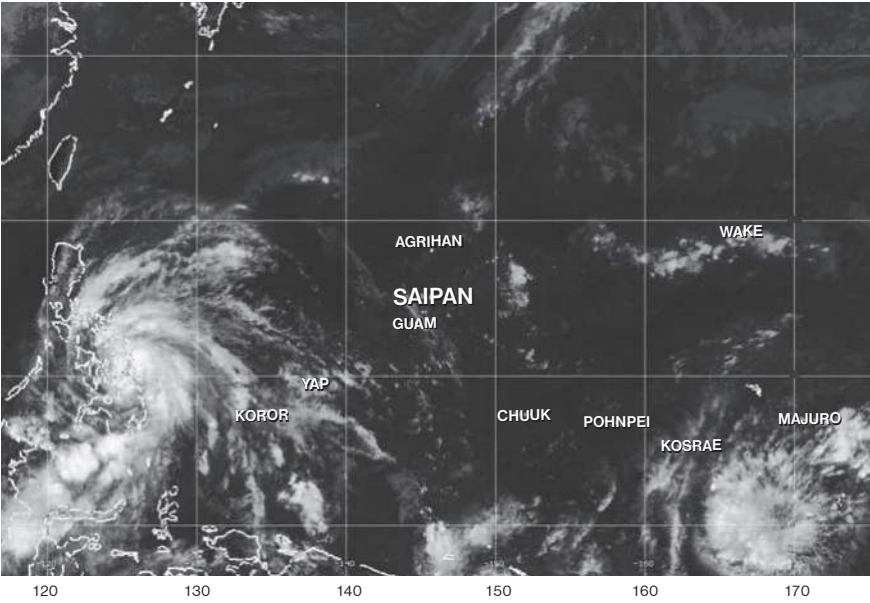
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 53
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 44
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 84 ▼ 74
London	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 44
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 82 ▼ 80
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 45
Miami	Showers	▲ 83 ▼ 77
New York	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 54
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 55
Paris	Sunny	▲ 65 ▼ 48
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 57
Rome	Sunny	▲ 74 ▼ 59
Salem	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 41
San Francisco	Showers	▲ 63 ▼ 54
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 51
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 54
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 82 ▼ 60

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
4:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
11:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
5:48 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends eastward from Tropical storm Son-tinh at 10N126E to 9N135E then curves to the southeast to end near 4N142E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found across portions of the Republic of Palau and Yap state between 5N and 13N east of 140E. Low-level convergence farther to the north is also producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of 17N132E. A trade-wind disturbance southeast of Kosrae is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of a line from 5N165E to 5N170E. A trade-wind trough approaching the Marshall Islands is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of Majuro within 150 miles of a line from 4N173E to 7N180. A dissipating shear line near Wake Island is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 100 miles of a line from 18N157E to 18N172E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM
Sunday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM
Monday	6:12 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:42 PM	2:08 AM
Friday	3:21 PM	2:59 AM
Saturday	4:00 PM	3:48 AM
Sunday	4:40 PM	4:37 AM
Monday	5:20 PM	5:27 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.
■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

BoG tops in small business lending in FY 2012

»Small businesses choose to 'bank local'

HAGATNA, Guam—The Guam Small Business Administration's full year report issued yesterday shows that Bank of Guam surpassed all local banks as the principal generator of small business loans in Guam, generating over 38 percent of SBA loans generated in Guam for fiscal year 2012.

The bank also leads in the number of loans, 40 percent, of loans approved under the SBA loan guaranty through fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 2012.

Bank of Guam board chair, president, and chief execu-

tive officer Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero said, "Being named SBA's No. 1 local bank in generating small business loans in Guam on the occasion of our 40th anniversary reminds us of our founding commitment to local and responsible economic growth and success. Congratulations are in order for Esther Reyes, who leads our SBA lending team, and who was Guam's 2010 SBA Loan Officer of the Year. We are humbled by the support over these four decades and will continue to work for and

earn the trust of our community. We are proud to share this wonderful success with our community."

Bank of Guam continues its SBA status as a member of the SBA Preferred Lender Program, Certified Lender Program, and Patriot Express. The SBA Preferred Lender Program provides the highest level of autonomy to designated banks, while Patriot Express is a loan initiative for veterans and members of the military community wanting to establish or expand small businesses. **(BoG)**

Council to honor 7 for humanities work

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will recognize seven individuals who made or are making significant contributions to the humanities during the 2012 Governor's Humanities Awards ceremony.

The event, which culminates the CNMI Humanities Month celebration, will be held tomorrow, Oct. 26, at Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret in San Antonio.

"This is the Council's chance to recognize those individuals who are promoting the humanities in a variety of formats and disciplines for the betterment of our community," said executive director Scott Russell.

He said the seven individuals fall under six categories: Research and Publication in the Humanities, Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices, Pres-

ervation of CNMI History, Outstanding Humanities Teacher in classroom and non-classroom settings, and Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities.

The last category, which may be given posthumously, recognizes significant contributions to the humanities over multiple decades.

Russell said this year's awardees were selected from the nominations solicited from the public until Oct. 10.

"We had an excellent group of nominees this year," Russell told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said the nominees were then reviewed by the Council's Nominations and Bylaws Committee, which made recommendations referred to the board of directors during a special meeting on Oct. 18.

The board is composed of chair David J. Attao, vice chair Tracy M. Guerrero, secretary/treasurer Rose Ada-Hocog, Joann T. Aquino, Marla M. Barcinas, Susana Deleon Guerrero, Jerry Facey, Don Farrell, Robert H. Hunter, Lynn F. Tenorio, Michael White, and Denita K. Yangetmai.

"Final selections were made during that special board meeting," said Russell.

The executive director noted that the council established the awards program in the mid-'90s to formally recognize community members and their contributions to the humanities.

"Without the program, many of these contributions would go largely unnoticed," added Russell.

For more information, visit the council office at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai or call 235-4785.



COLLEGE OUTREACH

Northern Marianas College leaders pose with talk show host John Oliver Gonzales after appearing on his show as part of the college's public awareness activities for initiative 17-12. From left to right: Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs and Services; Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services; Sharon Y. Hart, NMC president; and John Gonzales.

NMC

EMO warns of dangerous high surf

The Emergency Management Office issued yesterday a high surf advisory to warn the public against venturing near exposed beaches and reefs due to life threatening rip currents.

Based on information received from the Guam-based National Weather Service, a long period northeast swell

will generate hazardous surf along north facing reefs of the Marianas.

The high surf advisory is in effect until 10am Friday along north facing reefs.

"Hazardous surf up to 10 feet along north facing reefs will slowly subside to 7 to 9 feet [tonight]. Surf is ex-

pected to fall below the hazardous threshold of 9 feet by Friday morning," the EMO advisory states.

It advises the public and mariners to avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially those along north facing reefs as rip currents are hazardous. **(EMO)**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Boss Appreciation Day to iConnect executive director Michael Dilley! Everyday is appreciation day to me because you are by far one of the best bosses around! Thank you.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 6th Bday Maegan Myhia V. Taitano, wish u have more bdays in life & GOD bless and guide u all the time. Love, Dad, Mom, & brothers.

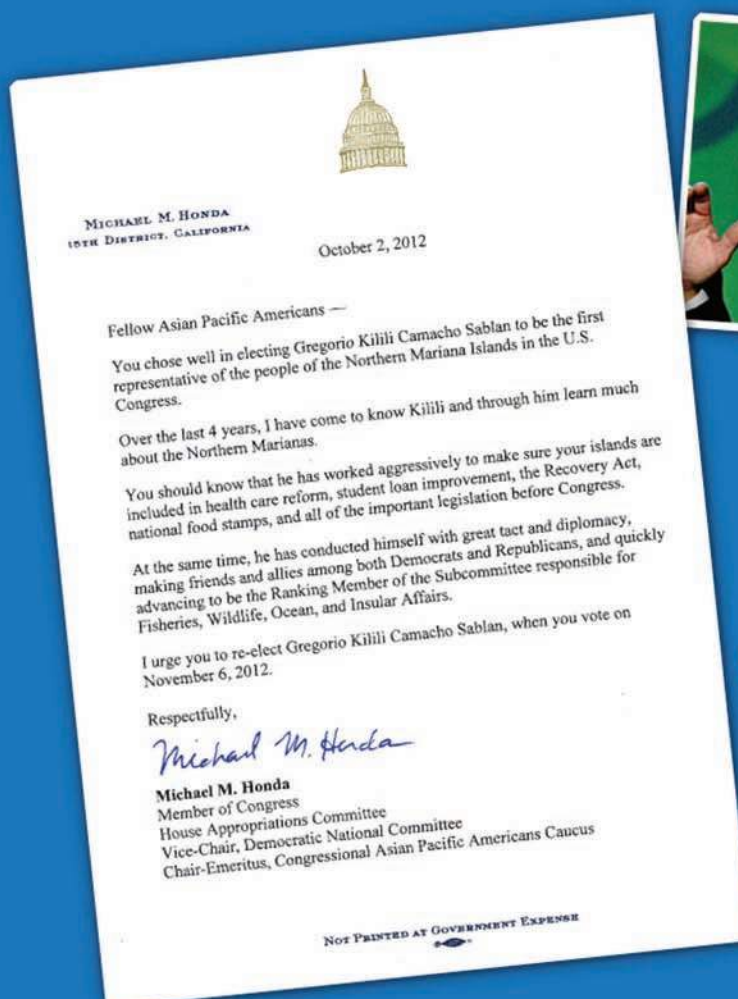
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Veteran U.S. Congressman

urges Northern Marianas voters...

Re-elect Kilili



"[Kilili] has conducted himself with great tact and diplomacy, making friends and allies among both Democrats and Republicans."

-- Rep. Mike Honda

Paid for by *Kilili* for Congress

Business

Apple's iPad Mini much pricier than rival tablets

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP)—Apple Inc.'s pencil-thin, smaller iPad will cost much more than its competitors, signaling the company isn't going to get into a mini-tablet price war.

The company debuted the iPad Mini Tuesday, with a screen two-thirds smaller than the full model, and half the weight. Customers can begin ordering the new model on Friday. In a surprise, Apple also revamped its flagship, full-sized iPad just six months after the launch of the latest model.

Apple's late founder Steve Jobs once ridiculed a small tablet from a competitor as a "tweener" that was too big and too small to compete with either smartphones or tablets. Now Apple's own Mini enters a growing small-tablet market dominated by Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle Fire.

Apple is charging \$329 and up for the Mini—a price that fits into the Apple product lineup between the latest iPod Touch (\$299) and the iPad 2 (\$399). Company watchers had been expecting Apple to price the iPad Mini at \$250 to \$300 to compete with the Kindle Fire, which starts at \$159. Barnes & Noble Inc.'s Nook HD and Google Inc.'s Nexus 7 both start at \$199.

"Apple had an opportunity to step on the throat of Amazon and Google yet decided to rely on its brand and focus on margin," said Bill Kreher, an analyst with brokerage Edward Jones.

Apple has sold more than 100 million iPads since April 2010. Analysts expect Apple to sell 5

million to 10 million iPad minis before the year is out.

Apple shares fell \$20.67, or 3.3 percent, to \$613.36 when the price was announced. Shares of Barnes & Noble Inc. jumped 88 cents, or 6.1 percent, to \$15.32. Shares of Amazon.com Inc. rose 53 cents, or 0.2 percent, to

\$234.31.

Apple starts taking orders for the new model on Friday, said marketing chief Phil Schiller in San Jose. Wi-Fi-only models will ship on Nov. 2. Later, the company will add models capable of accessing "LTE" wireless data networks.

Smaller package

Apple unveiled the long-awaited iPad mini meant to compete with smaller tablets from companies such as Google and Amazon.

Mini features

- "Lightning" connector; same connection as iPhone 5 and new iPad
- 1024 by 768 resolution; 163 pixels per inch
- Pre-order starts Oct. 26; in retail stores Nov. 2

	Wi-Fi	3G, Wi-Fi
16 GB	\$329	\$459
32 GB	\$429	\$559
64 GB	\$529	\$659

Sizing up



Other updates

- 13-inch MacBook Pro
- Retina display
- 20 percent thinner



- iMac
- Measures just 5 mm
- Improved display, faster performance



Source: Apple

Graphic: Melina Yingling

© 2012 MCT

Disabled patients to benefit from Medicare change

WASHINGTON (AP)—Thousands of Medicare patients with severe chronic illnesses such as Alzheimer's would get continuing access to rehab and other services under a change agreed to by the Obama administration, advocates said Tuesday. The proposed agreement in a national class action suit would allow Medicare patients to keep receiving physical and occupational therapy and other skilled services at home or in a nursing home so they can remain stable, said Gill Deford, a lawyer with the Center for Medicare Advocacy.

That's been a problem for some because of a longstanding Medicare policy that says patients must show improvement to keep getting rehab. Deford's group and other organizations representing patients challenged it.

"If you have a chronic condition, by definition you are not improving," said Deford, the lead attorney on the case. "Our view is that Medicare regulations were intended to allow people to maintain their health

status. They don't have to show they are getting any better. The point is to allow them not to get any worse, if possible."

The agreement was filed with Chief Judge Christina Reiss of the U.S. District Court in Vermont. It is expected to affect tens of thousands—maybe hundreds of thousands—of patients nationally. Those who stand to benefit include not only people with intractable conditions like Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and chronic lung disease. Those who are growing weaker because of advancing age, placing them at greater risk of falls and other problems, could also be helped.

The impact on Medicare's budget is unclear, partly because program rules are not always rigidly enforced. Even with a requirement that patients must continue to show improvement, billing contractors sometimes defer to the clinical judgment of doctors and therapists. A patient's underlying disease may be advancing, but therapy might help them keep up strength up

and do more to take care of themselves. Still, that's no guarantee that Medicare will pay.

"That's what the point of this case is," said Deford, adding that his center has represented many people repeatedly denied coverage for rehabilitation services. "This will allow them to have access." Advocates say Medicare could break even financially, if patients don't have to go to the hospital.

In court papers, Medicare denied that it imposes an inflexible standard that patients must continue to improve to keep receiving rehab services. Indeed, there is no such requirement in law. Medicare said other factors come into play, such as the patient's medical condition and whether treatment is reasonable and necessary. Government lawyers called the policy change a clarification.

"This settlement clarifies existing Medicare policy," said Erin Shields Britt, a spokeswoman for the federal Health and Human Services department. "We expect no changes in access to services or costs."

When pre-orders start on Oct. 26, the iPad Mini will be competing for the attention of gadget shoppers with the release of Windows 8, Microsoft's new operating system.

The screen of the iPad Mini is 7.9 inches on the diagonal, making it larger than the 7-inch screens of the competitors. It also sports two cameras, on the front and on the back, which the competitors don't.

The iPad mini is as thin as a pencil and weighs 0.68 pounds, half as much as the full-size iPad with its 9.7-inch screen, Schiller said.

The screen resolution is 1024

by 768 pixels, the same as the iPad 2 and a quarter of the resolution of the flagship iPad, which starts at \$499.

The new model has better apps and is easier to use than competitors like Google's Nexus, said Avi Greengart, a consumer electronics analyst with Current Analysis.

"This really is not in the same category as some of the other 7-inch tablets," he said. "And that's before you consider that it has a premium design—it's made of metal that's extremely lightweight."

Jobs attacked the whole idea of smaller tablets in his last ap-

pearance on a conference call with analysts in October 2010.

"The reason we wouldn't make a 7-inch tablet isn't because we don't want to hit a price point. It's because we don't think you can make a great tablet with a 7-inch screen," Jobs said. "The 7-inch tablets are tweeners, too big to compete with a smartphone and too small to compete with an iPad."

Job's chief objection was that a smaller screen would make it hard to hit buttons on the screen with the fingers—never mind that Apple's iPhone, with an even smaller screen, was already a hit at the time.

US may soon become world's top oil producer

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. oil output is surging so fast that the United States could soon overtake Saudi Arabia as the world's biggest producer.

Driven by high prices and new drilling methods, U.S. production of crude and other liquid hydrocarbons is on track to rise 7 percent this year to an average of 10.9 million barrels per day. This will be the fourth straight year of crude increases and the biggest single-year gain since 1951.

The boom has surprised even the experts.

"Five years ago, if I or anyone had predicted today's production growth, people would have thought we were crazy," says Jim Burkhard, head of oil markets research at IHS CERA, an energy consulting firm.

The Energy Department forecasts that U.S. production of crude and other liquid hydrocarbons, which includes biofuels, will average 11.4 mil-

lion barrels per day next year. That would be a record for the U.S. and just below Saudi Arabia's output of 11.6 million barrels. Citibank forecasts U.S. production could reach 13 million to 15 million barrels per day by 2020, helping to make North America "the new Middle East."

The last year the U.S. was the world's largest producer was 2002, after the Saudis drastically cut production because of low oil prices in the aftermath of 9/11. Since then, the Saudis and the Russians have been the world leaders.

The United States will still need to import lots of oil in the years ahead. Americans use 18.7 million barrels per day. But thanks to the growth in domestic production and the improving fuel efficiency of the nation's cars and trucks, imports could fall by half by the end of the decade.

The increase in production hasn't translated to cheaper

gasoline at the pump, and prices are expected to stay relatively high for the next few years because of growing demand for oil in developing nations and political instability in the Middle East and North Africa.

Still, producing more oil domestically, and importing less, gives the economy a significant boost.

The companies profiting range from independent drillers to large international oil companies such as Royal Dutch Shell, which increasingly see the U.S. as one of the most promising places to drill. ExxonMobil agreed last month to spend \$1.6 billion to increase its U.S. oil holdings.

Increased drilling is driving economic growth in states such as North Dakota, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Montana and Texas, all of which have unemployment rates far below the national average of 7.8 percent. North Dakota is at 3 percent; Oklahoma, 5.2.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Facebook posts 3Q loss, revenue jumps

NEW YORK (AP)—Facebook's third-quarter results inched past Wall Street's expectations, offering evidence that the company is making inroads in mobile advertising—a longtime concern among investors. Tuesday's financial results, Facebook's second as a public company, sent its stock sharply higher in after-hours trading. The stock jumped \$1.90, or 9.7 percent, to \$21.40 after the announcement. Facebook had closed up 18 cents at \$19.50 in regular trading on a day that saw the Dow Jones Industrial Average drop 243 points, or 1.8 percent. The world's biggest social media company posted a loss of \$59 million, or 2 cents per share, in the July-September period. That's down from earnings of \$227 million, or 10 cents per share a year ago, when Facebook was still privately held.

Roche probed for not reporting side effects

LONDON (AP)—Europe's top drug regulator announced Tuesday it is taking action against pharmaceutical giant Roche for allegedly failing to properly report the side effects of 19 drugs being used by U.S. patients. It is the first time the

European Medicines Agency has begun a so-called "infringement proceeding" against a drug maker. European regulations lay out numerous requirements for pharmaceuticals, including reporting suspected side effects and submitting such cases to officials. Eight of the drugs involved are used for the treatment of cancer, including breast cancer. They include Avastin, Herceptin, Tarceva, and Xeloda. The flu drug Tamiflu was also included in the list.

UPS says consumers driving shipping growth

NEW YORK (AP)—UPS says online shoppers are propping up its business in a tough global economy. The world's largest package delivery company believes that consumer demand for gadgets will drive its shipments and earnings this year, making up for slower trade between businesses. The company also narrowed its earnings forecast for the year, and now expects growth of 5 to 7 percent from 2011. The stock rose almost 3 percent Tuesday afternoon. UPS said it predicts earnings of \$4.55 to \$4.65 per share, compared with its earlier forecast of \$4.50 to \$4.70. The new outlook indicates that earnings in the fourth quarter will exceed Wall Street expectations.

Nation

Obama, Romney in final sprint to Election Day

DAYTON, Ohio (AP)—The endgame at hand, President Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney plunged into the final two weeks of an excruciatingly close race for the White House Tuesday with TV advertising nearing an astronomical \$1 billion and millions of Americans casting early ballots in all regions of the country.

Increasingly, Ohio looms as ground zero in a campaign waged in tough economic times. The state's unemployment rate of 7 percent is well below the national average of 7.8 percent, Obama has campaigned here more than in any other state and Romney has booked a heavy schedule of appearances in hopes of a breakthrough.

The economy was the theme Tuesday as the two rivals put their final, foreign policy-focused debate behind.

Obama brandished a new 20-page summary of his second-term agenda and told a campaign crowd in Florida his rival's blueprint "doesn't really create jobs. His deficit plan doesn't reduce the deficit; it adds to it."

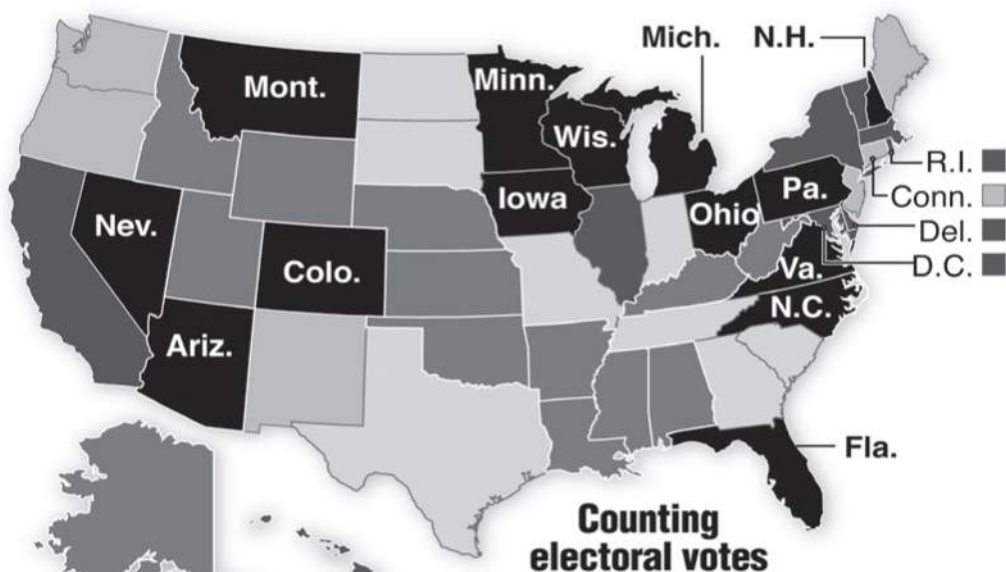
More than that, he said Romney changes his positions so often that he can't be trusted.

In Dayton, Obama said of his rival: "In the closing weeks of the campaign, he's doing everything he can to hide his true positions. He is terrific at making presentations about stuff he thinks is wrong with America, but he sure can't give you an

The battle heats up

In the final days of the presidential campaign, analysts say 14 states have the potential to swing to either candidate. How the states stand:

Democrat **Toss-up** **Republican**
 Solid Likely/leaning Solid Likely/leaning Solid



NOTE: Alaska and Hawaii are not to scale

Counting electoral votes
 There are a total of 538 electoral votes; the number of electors for each state is proportional to its population; 270 votes are needed to win the presidency



Source: Real Clear Politics, McClatchy Washington Bureau
 Graphic: Judy Treible

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Vets say late pay from VA cripples their finances

DENVER (AP)—Exasperated veterans who work part-time for the Veterans Administration while attending college say their paychecks are sometimes weeks late, leaving them in trouble with bill collectors or having to borrow money to avoid eviction.

The two-week paycheck is typically about \$360, and can be vital to veterans raising families and juggling expenses.

"It's absolutely crucial," said Neal Boyd, an Army veteran who has two children, attends Danville Area Community College in Illinois and works for the VA in the school's career service

office to help other veterans.

The VA work-study program lets them work an average of up to 25 hours a week on the VA payroll if they are full-time or three-quarter-time college students.

The program is separate from other GI Bill benefits such as tuition and textbook assistance and a housing allowance that varies by location. But veterans said those benefits don't cover all their expenses, and they need a job to make ends meet.

The veterans were paid a total of \$25.7 million in fiscal year 2011—the most recent year for which statistics were avail-

able. They are paid the federal minimum wage, \$7.25 an hour, or their state's minimum wage, whichever is higher.

The number of veterans in the program depends on the needs of their schools, and veterans qualify based on their financial need and other factors, the VA said. Veterans who want to join the program submit a contract to the VA for approval.

More than 10,000 veterans are in the VA work-study program nationwide, but it's difficult to pin down how widespread the paycheck delays are.

The VA said on average, the

checks are issued less than a week after time cards are received by the VA, but acknowledged they have been delayed at a processing center in St. Louis, one of four nationwide, because of a heavy workload and the loss of three workers.

In a statement, the department said it hired more workers in St. Louis last month and now has six assigned to process work-study paper work. The St. Louis office cut the processing time for paychecks to five days, down from an average as high as 12 days in some months, the statement said.

Mass. governor: Fungus seen at meningitis-linked firm

BOSTON (AP)—State officials investigating a pharmacy linked to a deadly outbreak of meningitis said Tuesday they found shoddy sterilization practices and unclean conditions there, including debris-covered floor mats and standing water from a leaking boiler.

State officials also said the New England Compounding Center shipped steroids from the possibly contaminated batches suspected in the out-

break before it received its own test results confirming the drugs were sterile.

Gov. Deval Patrick said he's ordered state pharmacy regulators to conduct surprise inspections—the first of which happened Tuesday—at companies similar to the NECC and take other steps to tighten oversight. The state also has moved to revoke the company's operating license and the licenses of its top three pharmacists.

"Those whose laboratory practices caused this outbreak should never practice pharmacy or manufacture in Massachusetts again," Patrick said.

The outbreak of fungal meningitis, an inflammation of the lining of the brain and spinal cord, has sickened 308 people, including 23 who have died, in 17 states. The outbreak has been linked to a steroid made by the NECC and taken mainly for back pain. Compounding pharmacies

like NECC custom mix solutions in doses or forms generally not commercially available.

The federal government is conducting a criminal investigation.

The state said Tuesday that its preliminary investigation, which began last month after the company was first suspected in the growing outbreak, found batches of drugs ready for general distribution but not labeled for specific patients.

answer about what will make it right. And that's not leadership you can trust."

Before flying to Ohio for his 17th trip of the election year, Obama also said with a hint of humility: "It doesn't mean that every candidate is going to get everything done all at once perfectly, but you want somebody to be able to look you in the eye and say, here's what I believe."

Romney countered in an appearance before a large, cheering crowd in Henderson, Nev. He said Obama wants a new term for the same policies that have produced slow economic growth and high unemployment for four long years. "He is a status quo candidate. ... That's why his campaign is slipping and ours is gaining so much steam," he said.

Romney's aides dismissed Obama's 20-page booklet as nothing new, and the former Massachusetts governor said of the president: "His vision for the future is a repeat of the past."

There seemed to be no end to the television advertising in a season when voters report they

are heartily sick of it.

If anything, it was expanding in the race's final days. Restore Our Future, which supports Romney, launched ads aimed at one of the two congressional districts in Maine in an attempt to peel one electoral vote away from Obama.

Material collected by ad trackers showed the two candidates and allied groups have spent or reserved nearly \$950 million so far on television commercials, much of it negative, some of it harshly so. Romney and GOP groups had a \$100 million advantage over Obama and his supporters, although variations in the purchase price made it difficult to compare the number of ads each side had run.

Increasingly, the two campaigns were focused on turning out their supporters in early balloting under way in more than half the states.

"Every single day right now is Election Day," Obama's campaign manager, Jim Messina, told reporters. On that, at least, Republicans offered no rebuttal.

ACROSS THE NATION

Teenage brothers charged with killing NJ girl, 12

CLAYTON, N.J. (AP)—A teenage boy lured a 12-year-old girl into his house under the guise of getting parts for her treasured bicycle and then, with his older brother, killed her, police said Tuesday. The girl's disappearance had sparked a frantic search by residents of her small town until a tip from the boys' mother led police to her body, stuffed into a home recycling bin. The boys, ages 15 and 17, were charged with murdering Autumn Pasquale, who disappeared while riding her BMX bike Saturday, a little more than a week before what would have been her 13th birthday. She appeared to have been strangled, Gloucester County prosecutor Sean Dalton said at a late-day news conference. The boys' mother had come forward with information about a posting on a son's Facebook account, Dalton said. He wouldn't say what was on the website or discuss a possible motive for the killing, but said there was no sign of sexual assault.

Paraplegic survives 3 days stranded in NM desert

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—A paraplegic man who says he was stranded in the New Mexico desert without his wheelchair dragged himself about four miles down a dirt road over three days before a motorist stopped to help him. Tattered and dirty, Ricky Gil-

more's blue jeans tell part of the story. His body tells the rest—the skin on his left leg and buttocks is shredded, his wrist is sprained and his kidneys are in bad shape from going without food and water. "Ah man, I'm just a big mess. I ache and I'm just in the first stages of healing," he told The Associated Press on Tuesday from his hospital bed at the Northern Navajo Medical Center in Shiprock, N.M. Gilmore, 49, is being treated for acute kidney failure from dehydration, a sprained wrist and a blood infection. He spent two days in intensive care and it could be at least another week before he can go home.

Surfer killed by shark off central California

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP)—A surfer was killed Tuesday by a shark off a beach at coastal Vandenberg Air Force Base following a summer of shark sightings along the Central California coast, authorities said. Francisco Javier Solorio Jr., 39, of Orcutt, was killed in the attack off the coast of Surf Beach in Lompoc, the Santa Barbara County sheriff's department said in a statement. He was bitten by the shark in his upper torso. Solorio "had a friend who he was surfing with who saw the shark bite or hit the man," said sheriff's Sgt. Mark A. Williams. "His friend ended up swimming over and pulling him from the water where he received first aid."

Asia

China reshuffles top officers ahead of congress



In this file photo taken Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007, China's top leadership including rising stars like then Shanghai party chief Xi Jinping, bottom second from right, and then Liaoning party chief Li Keqiang top right raise their hands to approve resolutions passed during the closing ceremony for the 17 Communist Party Congress held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China.

BEIJING (AP)—China has named a new air force chief and reshuffled other top military positions ahead of next month's appointment of new Communist

Party leaders, state media reported Tuesday.

The newly named air force head, former deputy chief of staff Ma Xiaotian, is well

known as a frequent participant in the Chinese military's overseas exchanges.

Ma will be replaced as deputy chief of staff by Wang Guan-

zhong, former head of the general office of the Central Military Commission, which oversees the armed forces, state broadcaster CCTV said. Tian Xiushi was

named air force political commissar, while Zhu Fuxi is the new commissar of the Chengdu Military Region, which includes much of southwestern China and Tibet, CCTV said.

The 2.3 million-member People's Liberation Army is an influential force in Chinese politics and is expected to play a significant role in decisions made at the Communist Party's once-in-five-years congress, which begins Nov. 8. Soldiers make up a major proportion of party delegates, and top officers have pushed for ever-bigger defense budgets and a more assertive approach to handling conflicts with the United States, Japan and other foreign rivals.

Other new military appointments are expected as Vice President Xi Jinping moves to assume the party leadership from Hu Jintao, who will also

step down as president next spring. It's unclear whether Hu will also relinquish his office of head of the Central Military Commission, which oversees the armed forces.

China's air force has attracted growing attention with the introduction in recent years of cutting edge imported Russian and domestically designed planes. Chinese military aircraft makers are working on a pair of prototype stealth fighters, although their true capabilities remain unknown. The air force also is expanding its fleet of heavy lift aircraft to extend China's ability to deploy troops and equipment far from its borders.

Last year, the air force dispatched transport planes to Libya to rescue Chinese citizens trapped there by fighting, the first time the Chinese military had flown such a mission.

Another Tibetan in western China self-immolates

BEIJING (AP)—A Tibetan farmer set himself ablaze in front of a market in remote northwest China in the second self-immolation death near the Labrang Monastery in two days, a rights group said.

The monastery in Gansu province's Xiahe county is one of the most important outside of Tibet and was the site of numerous protests by monks following deadly ethnic riots in Tibet in 2008 that were the most sustained Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule in decades.

The Washington-based International Campaign for Tibet said in an email that Dorje Rinchen, a farmer in his late 50s, set himself on fire Tuesday on the main street in Xiahe and died later.

The group sent a photo allegedly showing Dorje wrapped in blankets after the immolation, his neck and head badly charred and swollen. It was not clear whether he was still alive when the blurry, poorly lit picture was taken.

The group quoted a Tibetan from Xiahe who currently lives in exile as saying that Dorje had counseled young Tibetans not to

self-immolate.

A woman who answered the phone at the Xiahe Public Security Bureau refused to answer questions about the self-immolation and the phone of the local Communist Party propaganda office rang unanswered Wednesday. The number for the Labrang Monastery appeared to not be in service.

On Monday, a Tibetan herdsman died after setting himself on fire near the monastery.

Dozens of Tibetans have set themselves on fire since March 2011 in ethnic Tibetan areas of China in protest over what activists say is Beijing's heavy-handed rule in the region. Many have called for the return of their spiritual leader, the exiled Dalai Lama. The government has confirmed some, but not all, of the self-immolations.

Chinese authorities routinely deny Tibetan claims of repression and have accused supporters of the Dalai Lama of encouraging the self-immolations. The Dalai Lama and representatives of the self-declared Tibetan government-in-exile in India say they oppose all violence.

Myanmar: New clashes between Muslims, Buddhists

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—New clashes between Muslims and Buddhists have broken out in volatile western Myanmar, leaving at least two people dead and more than a thousand homes burned to the ground, authorities said Tuesday.

The information ministry said the violence was continuing and authorities were trying to restore law and order.

The unrest, which began Sunday night, is some of the worst reported between Rohingya Muslims and ethnic Rakhine Buddhists since skirmishes swept the region in June, displacing about 70,000 people.

Rakhine state Attorney General Hla Thein said the latest

violence began in Minbyar township, about 25 kilometers (15 miles) north of the state capital, Sittwe. It later spread farther north to Mrauk-U township. Both areas are remote, reachable only by foot, Hla Thein said.

Authorities imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew in the townships on Monday, Hla Thein said. He said both areas were calm Tuesday, but the information ministry announced later in the day that the violence was continuing.

Hla Thein said one Buddhist man and two Muslim women died in Sunday's riots, but the ministry put the death toll at two—a man and a woman. It

said 531 houses from six villages in Minbyar and 508 houses in two villages in Mrauk-U had been destroyed in arson attacks.

The unrest comes four months after members of the two religious groups turned on each other across Rakhine state in June after the alleged rape and murder of a Buddhist woman by three Muslim men in late May.

That violence left at least 90 people dead and destroyed more than 3,000 homes and dozens of mosques and monasteries. The two groups are now almost completely segregated in towns such as Sittwe, where the Rakhine are able to roam freely while the Ro-

hingya are mostly confined to a series of camps outside the city center.

The last serious clashes in the state took place in August, when government officials said seven people were killed in the town of Kyauktaw. The United Nations said 600 homes were burned at the time.

The crisis in Myanmar's west goes back decades and is rooted in a dispute over where the region's Muslim inhabitants are from. Although many Rohingya have lived in Myanmar for generations, they are widely denigrated as foreigners—intruders who came from neighboring Bangladesh to steal scarce land.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Taiwan prosecutor: Cancer patient set deadly fire

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—A nursing home resident upset about being ill with cancer confessed to setting a fire that killed 12 fellow patients, most of them bedridden and too frail to escape, authorities in Taiwan said. Security video broadcast on TV showed nurses working frantically to save patients, wheeling their beds into nearby corridors

and performing CPR on stricken victims outside Hsinying hospital early Tuesday morning. The nursing home is on the second floor of the hospital in the southern city of Tainan. Prosecutor Tseng Chao-kai said the security cameras also showed a naked man fleeing the blaze and police later found him hiding in a storage facility at the Hsinying hospital. The prosecutor said Lin Chi-hsiung confessed he set the fire because he was unhappy about his own

protracted illness. Lin, 67, was detained late Tuesday pending filing formal charges

US warship rescues Filipino fishermen from sinking

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A U.S. Navy warship rescued five Filipino fishermen Wednesday after helicopter pilots spotted them flashing a lighter in the middle of the night while standing on the roof of their sinking

boat, officials said. A Navy helicopter discovered the fishermen in international waters just after midnight, hours after the fishing boat started taking on water, said Tina Malone, a U.S. Embassy spokeswoman in Manila. The guided-missile destroyer USS *McCampbell*, which was closest to the scene, launched two boats to rescue them. Malone said the fishermen were given a checkup and found to be in good health. They will be brought ashore

when the USS *McCampbell* arrives in Manila on Wednesday as part of a five-day goodwill visit by the USS *George Washington* aircraft carrier strike group.

Philippines stops scam that hit scrap metal buyers

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police said Tuesday they have stopped a 10-year scam in which an international syndicate shipped junk instead of

scrap metal for which the buyers paid millions. The syndicate operating from the Philippines is headed by two Singaporeans and a Briton based in Hong Kong, said Director Samuel Pagdilao of the national police investigation and detection group. Other members of the syndicate include Filipinos, Taiwanese and Chinese, he said. The Philippines will seek Interpol help to catch the suspects in other countries once charges are filed in court.

World

Aleppans stretched to limit in war for Syrian city

ALEPPO, Syria (AP)—The rumble of engines in the sky immediately set the Aleppo neighborhood below on edge. Men peeked from shops anxiously at the Syrian warplane circling slowly overhead. Housewives emerged on balconies to gauge whether they were about to be hit. But the kids hanging out on the street were unfazed. One kept dribbling his basketball.

Finally, the jet struck. Engines revving louder, it dove and unleashed a burst of heavy machine-gunfire into a nearby part of the city. It soared back up under a hail of rebel anti-aircraft fire, then swooped back down for a second strafing run.

The women on the balconies broke into tears, fearing for the children in the street. But the boys just pointed at the jet, shouting “God is great” in challenge. “God send you to hell, Bashar,” one boy yelled as the jet flew away.

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian warplanes on Tuesday struck a strategic rebel-held town in the country’s north in an attempt to reopen a key supply route, activists said, as a U.N.-proposed cease-fire meant to start this week appeared increasingly unlikely to take hold.

The U.N.-Arab League envoy to Syria has suggested that both sides in Syria’s 19-month-old conflict lay down their arms during Eid al-Adha, a four-day Muslim holiday that begins Friday. However, neither Syrian President Bashar Assad nor rebels fighting to topple him have committed to a truce, and international envoy Lakhdar Brahimi has not

said how such a truce would be monitored.

Syria’s stalemated civil war, which has frequently spilled over Syria’s borders and threatens to destabilize an already volatile region, featured prominently in the final pre-election debate Monday in the U.S. between President Barack Obama and his Republican challenger, Mitt Romney.

With death lurking around every corner, the survival instincts of Aleppo’s population are being stretched to the limit every day as the battle between Syria’s rebels and the regime of President Bashar Assad for the country’s largest city stretches through its fourth destructive month. Residents in the rebel-held neighborhoods suffering the war’s brunt tell tales of lives filled with fear over the war in their streets, along with an ingenuity and resilience in trying to keep their shattered families going.

And while residents of the rebel-held areas express their hatred of Assad’s regime and their dream of seeing him go, they also voice their worries over the rebels and the destruction that their offensive has brought to their city. Graffiti on the shutter of a closed store declares the population’s sense of resignation: “God, you are all we’ve got.”

Since the rebels launched their assault in July to drive government forces from Aleppo, the two sides have fought to a stalemate. Each holds about half the city of 3 million people and neither is able to deal the other a decisive blow. While government-held areas have seen some fighting from



In this Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012 photo, a general view of damaged buildings from shelling in Aleppo, Syria

occasional rebel forays, the opposition districts are hit daily by artillery, mortars, sniper fire and airstrikes. Hundreds of civilians have been randomly killed by shells or mortars while waiting in bread lines, shopping for food or in their homes.

Rebels drive the dusty streets at breakneck speed, ferrying the wounded to a field hospital. Thoroughfares packed with cars one moment abruptly empty out—a sign that up ahead a sniper is active.

Men methodically scavenge in the city’s heaps of garbage, many of which smolder from unsuccessful attempts to completely burn them. Entire city blocks are eerily deserted, the mounds of debris from the apartment buildings a testimony to bombardments that drove residents to flee. Grim-faced families piling up belongings

onto a pickup truck or a taxi to ferry them to a new home and a new life away from danger are a common sight.

Signs around the city advertise basements for rent, where many families crowd for relative safety.

Bab el-Sheaar Square, located near one of the city’s many front lines, shows the destruction to the once vibrant life that distinguished Aleppo, Syria’s capital of commerce.

Oblivious to the rattle of machine-gun fire and the whistle of mortar rounds landing only 100 or 200 meters away, a 12-year-old boy bicycled across the square, heading home from a visit to his cousins just as the shelling picked up. “I am not afraid,” the boy, Younis, declared. “I only fear God.”

Another boy, 14-year-old Ahmed, pushed his cart selling sahlab, a hot, milky drink with nuts. With few people in the

square, he wasn’t finding many customers.

“I want to live, that’s it,” he said. “I have younger siblings and they need to eat too.” He and other residents refused to give their last names or asked that names not be used for fear of retaliation from the regime.

The owner of a household goods store near the square was looking to salvage his business.

“I am renting a new store in an area under government control,” he declared as he cleaned his shelves of blenders, juice makers and water boilers that an employee loaded onto a car. “No one likes to see this destruction, but no one wants the regime to stay either.”

Corrugated-iron store shutters litter the square, blasted off in the fighting. Electrical cables dangle from damaged buildings. Air conditioners hang off their hinges, waiting to take a fatal plunge to the street below. Bullet-riddled shop signs paint a picture of what was once available: “Al-Zein frozen goods. All types of Arabic ice cream” and “Al-Moayed’s cheeses and milk. Natural flavors, perfect quality and nutritional value.”

A poster torn to the ground advertises South Korean mobile phones that come in pink and sky blue, proclaiming, “Add a spark to your life. Your first love.”

Hezbollah rejects international probe in killing

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria’s powerful ally Hezbollah was accused Tuesday by Lebanese political opponents of playing a role in the assassination of a top intelligence officer who used his post to fight Syrian meddling in Lebanon.

The group, which dominates Lebanon’s government, rejected calls to refer the investigation of the killing to the international tribunal that implicated Hezbollah figures in the truck bombing that killed former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri under similar circumstances.

Brig. Gen. Wissam al-Hassan was killed Oct. 19 in a car bomb that exploded next to his car in a residential Beirut neighborhood, shearing the balconies off apartment towers and killing al-Hassan, his bodyguard and a civilian. Scores more were injured.

The killing has sent tremors along Lebanon’s most tenuous political fault line, that separating allies of Syrian President Bashar Assad and those who oppose him.

Lebanon’s two largest political coalitions have lined up on opposite sides of Syria’s civil war. The Shiite group Hezbollah and its partners who dominate the government have stood by Assad’s regime, while the Sunni-led opposition

backs the rebels seeking to topple the government.

Al-Hassan, a Sunni Muslim, was clearly in the latter camp, and his killing has led to sectarian violence in Lebanon, whose myriad sects have strong ties to their brethren across the border. At least 13 people have died in clashes between pro- and anti-Syria factions since the assassination—the deadliest violence in Beirut in four years.

Lebanese investigators have yet to cast blame in al-Hassan’s killing, but details about the plot made public Tuesday suggest it was an inside job by someone who tracked al-Hassan’s international travels and monitored the secret office he used to meet informants.

Those details offered new ammunition to anti-Syria politicians who accuse the Assad regime and Hezbollah in the killing.

“I said from the beginning, ‘Who killed General Wissam al-Hassan and was behind the terrorist attack?’ They are the Syrian and Iranian regimes through the hands of Hezbollah,” parliament member Khaled Daher said on LBC TV.

Security officials say al-Hassan returned to Lebanon from Europe the night before he was killed but traveled under a false name and told almost no one he was in Beirut. Daher suggested

that officials at the Beirut airport, a Hezbollah stronghold, tipped off the killers.

“This airport is full of Hezbollah gangs who bring into Beirut whatever they want,” he said.

Al-Hassan’s killing bore a striking similarity to the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in a massive truck bomb in Beirut in 2005. Al-Hassan handled security for Hariri and was close to his son, Saad, who also served as prime minister and inherited his father’s role as the leading opponent of Syrian involvement in Lebanon.

Noting the similarities, some lawmakers have called for the investigation into al-Hassan’s death to be referred to the international tribunal set up to probe the elder Hariri’s killing. The U.N.-backed tribunal has indicted four Hezbollah members in the killing of Hariri and 22 others. Hezbollah has denied involvement.

On Tuesday, Hezbollah’s deputy leader rejected these calls, saying al-Hassan’s killing was a crime that sought to destabilize Lebanon and should be dealt with in Lebanese courts.

“Any attempt to add an international dimension will not do anything to this case,” Sheik Naim Kassar said in a statement. “This is a Lebanese affair and under the authority of Lebanese laws.”

WORLD BRIEFS

6.5 earthquake shakes Costa Rica’s Pacific coast

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)—A powerful earthquake struck Costa Rica’s Pacific coast on Tuesday, swaying buildings and sending people running into the streets in the nation’s capital of San Jose. The 6.5-magnitude quake was centered in the Guanacaste region of the Central American country, only 5 miles (8 kilometers) from the popular tourist town of Nicoya, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. It had a depth of 24.5 miles (39.5 kilometers), according to a preliminary report. At the beach of Matapalo, an hour drive from Nicoya, residents said they heard a roaring sound when the quake struck. “I’m shaken. But it doesn’t feel close to how it sounds like. The sound was deafening,” said Alberto Canales, a receptionist at the Hotel Riu Guanacaste.

Jamaica prepares for Tropical Storm Sandy

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—Jamaicans stocked up on supplies and reinforced roofs on Tuesday ahead of the arrival of Tropical Storm Sandy, which is expected to hit the Caribbean island of posh resorts and sprawling shantytowns as a hurricane with lashing rain and wind. The U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami said the

storm was churning over warm Caribbean waters and should reach Jamaica on Wednesday, most likely as a Category 1 hurricane. The late-season storm is expected to travel from south to north over the island, which local meteorologists say hasn’t sustained a direct hit from a hurricane’s eye since powerful Hurricane Gilbert in 1988. Acting Prime Minister Peter Phillips said “all Jamaicans must take the threat of this storm seriously” and asked people to look out for their neighbors, especially children, the elderly and the disabled.

Explosion at arms factory in Sudan’s capital

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP)—Sudan’s state news agency says a huge fire broke out following an explosion at an industrial complex that produces weapons south of the capital. The state news agency said authorities were putting out the fire in the Yarmuk industrial complex. The reason for the explosion which occurred shortly after midnight Tuesday was not immediately known. The governor of Khartoum, Abdul-Rahman Khedr, told the agency no one died in the explosion but that some people were hospitalized for smoke inhalation. He said the fire was under control and investigation into the cause of the explosion were under way.

Environment

10 ways to save money and your health this winter

WASHINGTON, D.C.—With winter quickly approaching, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is highlighting 10 tips for Americans to protect their health, save money, and lower energy while enjoying the winter holiday season.

1. Maintain your heating equipment to lower utility bills. Heating and cooling costs account for about \$1,000—nearly half of a home's total annual energy bill. Maintaining the efficiency of your home's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system can have a big effect on your utility bills. Dirt and neglect can impact the efficiency of your HVAC system and are some of the top causes of heating system failure. Schedule an HVAC checkup with a licensed HVAC contractor to make sure your system is operating at peak performance. Also, check your system's air filter every month and change it when it's dirty or at a minimum, every three months. A dirty filter will slow down air flow and make the system work harder to keep you warm or cool—wasting energy.

2. Download EPA's free Apps to help protect your health. The AIRNow app allows users to enter a zip code and get current particle pollution and ozone levels and forecasts for more than 400 cities across the country. The Ultra-violet (UV) Index provides an hourly forecast of the UV radiation levels from the sun. Both are available for Apple and Android phones.

3. Decorate for the holidays with Energy Star light strings that can last up to 10 times longer. Energy Star-qualified light strings use about 65 percent less electricity than incandescent light strings and are

available in a variety of colors, shapes and lengths. They save energy and are more durable, shock-resistant and cooler to the touch. If every decorative light string sold in the U.S. this year were Energy Star qualified, Americans would save \$80 million in utility bills and one billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions would be prevented.

4. Lower the temperature in your home to increase savings up to 12 percent. Control your home's temperature while away or asleep by using one of the pre-programmed settings. Programming the thermostat to turn the temperature down 8 degrees for 7 hours each night and an additional 7 hours

weekday could result in a seasonal heating savings of approximately 12 percent. For the average home, this could result in savings of about \$180.

5. Check for water leaks and install WaterSense products to save approximately \$170 per year. The average household spends as much as \$500 per year on their water and sewer bill, but approximately \$170 per year can be saved by installing water-efficient fixtures and appliances.

6. Reduce your food waste. Feed people, not landfills. Food is the single largest type of waste going to landfills and incinerators. Americans disposed of approximately 33 million tons of food waste in 2010. When excess food, leftover food, and food scraps are disposed of in a landfill, they decompose and become a significant source of methane—a potent greenhouse gas. Much of the food that is discarded in landfills is actually safe, wholesome food that could have been used to feed people.

So when you are thinking about making your family dinner, think about how you can reduce your food waste to save money, help communities, and protect the environment.

7. Look for the Design for the Environment label on more than 2,800 products during winter cleaning. EPA's Designed for the Environment (DfE) logo differentiates products that use only the safest ingredients to protect people, our pets, and the environment. In 2011, Americans using DfE products cut the use of harmful chemicals by more than 756 million pounds.

8. Test your home for radon gas, 1 in 15 homes may have elevated levels. Radon, a colorless odorless gas, is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and levels can increase during colder months. Purchase an affordable Do-It-Yourself test kit online or at a local hardware store to determine the level in your home. Addressing high levels often costs the same as other minor home repairs.

9. Learn before you burn and cut firewood use by more than 30 percent. The Burn Wise program has best burn practices to help better protect your home and your health. Never burn garbage, cardboard, ocean driftwood or wet wood. If you replace an old wood stove

with a more efficient one, efficiency can increase by 50 percent, 1/3 less wood can be used for the same heat and 70 percent less particle pollution indoors and out are produced.

10. Prevent Pests. Now is the time when pests such as insects and rodents may try to move indoors. Eliminate sources of food, water, and shelter to reduce pest problems. Prevent pests by using caulk to eliminate cracks, repair water leaks, remove clutter, and clean up crumbs and other food sources. If you decide to use a pesticide, read the label first. The pesticide label is your guide to using pesticides safely and effectively. It contains pertinent information that you should read and understand before you use a pesticide product. (EPA)

ON THE NET

■ Winter tips: <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-winter.htm>
 ■ MyEnvironment: <http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment/>
 ■ Pick5 for the Environment: <http://www.epa.gov/pick5/>

DO YOUR PART

Top 5 smarter grocery store swaps to save

By **TERRI BENNETT**
 MCT INFORMATION SERVICES

Do Your Part is about making everyday choices that are better for you, your family, and the environment. One way you can make a difference today is by making a few simple swaps when you go to the grocery store. The next time you head out to your local supermarket, keep these top 5 green choices in mind:

SUPPORT LOCAL FARMERS

The first place most of us stop is the produce section. Start your trip selecting those fruits and veggies that are in season and locally grown. Local produce has traveled far fewer miles to reach your table so it's always fresher. When you buy local produce you are also supporting your local farmer and the local economy. Plus, this locally grown goodness will last longer once it's at home.

BUY GREEN CLEANERS

Going green when it comes to cleaning your home is one of the most important decisions we can make. Chemical based cleaners can often pollute the air inside our homes by releasing volatile organic compounds. A better choice is to use white vinegar to disinfect and baking soda to scrub. You can also seek out store bought cleaners that are phosphate-free, fragrance-free and biodegradable. It's also best to choose those made from plant-based ingredients.

CHOOSE BEVERAGES IN ALUMINUM CANS

Try to buy soda, beer, or juice

in aluminum cans when you have the option. Aluminum is among the most valuable recycled materials and it's easily turned into another aluminum can or container in as little as 90 days. Then make sure to recycle the can since nearly all curbside recycling programs accept aluminum.

CHOOSE RECYCLED PRODUCTS

Paper products made from recycled material use 40 percent less energy and water being manufactured which in turns creates far less air, land, and water pollution. Paper towels and napkins cannot be recycled due to food residue but at least we can buy ones made from recycled content.

USE THOSE REUSABLE BAGS

With many grocery store chains offering cash back for using reusable bags, there is more incentive than ever to use them. But, don't forget about all those produce bags. You can reuse ones you already have or you could go without. Not every type of produce needs a bag. Use them only as needed.

Making smarter choices at the grocery store is easy and will actually save you money. Do Your Part and make these simple swaps the next time you go shopping.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part, a practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.

Scientists link deep wells to deadly Spain quake

MADRID (AP)—Farmers drilling ever deeper wells over decades to water their crops likely contributed to a deadly earthquake in southern Spain last year, a new study suggests. The findings may add to concerns about the effects of new energy extraction and waste disposal technologies.

Nine people died and nearly 300 were injured when an unusually shallow magnitude-5.1 quake hit the town of Lorca on May 11, 2011. It was the country's worst quake in more than 50 years, causing millions of euros in damage to a region with an already fragile economy.

Using satellite images, scientists from Canada, Italy and Spain

found the quake ruptured a fault running near a basin that had been weakened by 50 years of groundwater extraction in the area.

During this period, the water table dropped by 250 meters (274 yards) as farmers bored ever deeper wells to help produce the fruit, vegetables and meat that are exported from Lorca to the rest of Europe. In other words, the industry that propped up the local economy in southern Spain may have undermined the very ground on which Lorca is built.

The researchers noted that even without the strain caused by water extraction, a quake would likely have occurred at some point.

But the extra stress of pumping vast amounts of water from a nearby aquifer may have been enough to trigger a quake at that particular time and place, said lead researcher Pablo J. Gonzalez of the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

Miguel de las Doblas Lavigne, a geologist with Spain's National Natural Science Museum who has worked on the same theory but was not involved in the study, said the Lorca quake was in the cards.

"This has been going on for years in the Mediterranean areas, all very famous for their agriculture and plastic greenhouses. They are just sucking all the water out of the aquifer,

drying them out," he told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "From Lorca to (the regional capital of) Murcia you can find a very depleted water level."

De las Doblas said it was "no coincidence that all the aftershocks were located on the exact position of maximum depletion."

"The reason is clearly related to the farming, it's like a sponge you drain the water from; the weight of the rocks makes the terrain subside and any small variation near a very active fault like the Alhama de Murcia may be the straw that breaks the camel's back, which is what happened," he said.



Life & Style

New Bond film 'Skyfall' gets royal world premiere

LONDON (AP)—The latest James Bond movie is getting its world premiere in London on Tuesday, with Prince Charles on hand to give it a royal seal of approval.

Daniel Craig was the first of the film's stars to arrive at the screening at the Royal Albert Hall in central London, where he was joined by co-stars Judi Dench, Javier Bardem, and Naomie Harris.

"Skyfall" is the 23rd official Bond film, and Craig's third outing as the suave superspy. Harris is Bond girl Eve, a field agent racked by self-doubt, Dench plays spy chief M, battling a crisis with roots in her past, and Bardem plays Raoul Silva, a Bond villain bent on revenge.

Bardem said he was drawn to the role of Bond bad guy after seeing Jaws, the steel-toothed henchman in 1979's "Moonraker."

With some critics hailing the Sam Mendes-directed "Skyfall" as one of the best Bond films of the half-a-century-old franchise, Bardem said the series' appeal showed that "they have been doing something really right, starting with the actors who have played Bond. They have all brought their own flavor to it."

Craig, dressed in a black Tom Ford suit, appeared to share a laugh with Prince Charles and his wife Camilla ahead of the premiere. Also on hand were Ben Whishaw, who plays Q, and Berenice Marlohe, who plays Bond girl Severine, as well as Olympic cycling champion Victoria Pendleton and model Kelly Brook.

"Skyfall" opens in Britain on Friday and in the U.S. on Nov. 9. Proceeds from Tuesday's royal gala are going to charities that help members of Britain's intelligence services.

As a Bond villain, Bardem gives 'Skyfall' a jolt

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—In one long take, Javier Bardem grandly strides into the latest James Bond film.

Walking slowly across a cavernous lair and toward a foreground where Daniel Craig's 007 sits tied to a chair, Bardem—as the film's villain, Raoul Silva—tells an ominously symbolic story about rats. Resembling something like a sinister Dick Cavett, Bardem, with wavy blond hair and a white jacket, crouches near Bond and suggestively, intimidatingly rubs his thigh.

It comes as little surprise that Bardem as a Bond villain is a lot of fun. In "Skyfall," he provides one of the finest arch-enemies in the 50-year history of Bond films, and plays him as a distinctly more human character than the franchise has often provided—even if with a dose of flamboyance.

"The key point for me was what (director Sam Mendes) told me from the very beginning: the word 'uncomfortableness,'" Bardem said in a recent interview. "I don't want him to be someone that threatens somebody, that's threatening to someone. It's about creating a very uncomfortable situation every time he talks to somebody else."

The 43-year-old Spanish actor is already widely admired by his peers and film critics, having won an Oscar in 2007 for another interestingly coiffured villain, Anton Chigurh in "No Country for Old Men,"

and been nominated two other times: for his breakthrough performance in Julian Schnabel's "Before Night Falls" (2000) and for his soulful, melancholy turn in Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's "Biutiful" (2010).

But "Skyfall" is Bardem's largest film yet, the kind of blockbuster behemoth that usually gives little room for even the finest actors to flex their muscles. Yet, rather than be constrained by the Bond movie archetype, Bardem manages to put forth a performance just as nuanced as those in smaller, more deliberately arty films.

"I've never done a movie as big as James Bond, so I didn't how a big monster like this would affect my work on set," says Bardem. "It was a great gift of finding myself in a very, very creative process."

It was Craig who first reached out to Bardem while casually chatting at an event in Los Angeles. Bardem, intrigued, re-



Javier Bardem arrives at the world premiere of "Skyfall" at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012 in London.



Britain's Prince of Wales, right, and The Duchess of Cornwall, second right, meet James Bond actor Daniel Craig, left, and Dame Judi Dench, second left, as they arrive to attend the world premiere of the James Bond film, "Skyfall", at the Royal Albert Hall, in London Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012.

plied that the prospect sounded "pretty cool." He was later convinced after reading the script and finding: "Wow. There's a person here."

"I'm in awe of the guy," says Craig. "He's a passionate kind of creature where everything he does on screen is mesmerizing and electrifying. He put in levels of interest, made it real, but didn't forget he was playing a Bond villain—which is a clever actor knowing full well he's got to play it straight, kind of, and then remember what he's doing."

Just how "straight" Bardem's Silva is has been a question eagerly debated by 007 fans, with some calling him the first gay Bond villain. That's probably overstating it (and what do we really know about Oddjob's private life, besides) but Silva's effiteness, along with his sensitivity and sense of humor, make him

an unusually layered bad guy.

"Doing a Bond movie affords you that kind of flamboyance that you can't get in purely naturalistic movies," says Mendes. "As an actor, you get an opportunity to do things that, frankly, are hovering a foot above the ground. They're not rooted in reality. Javier always has a slight theatricality about him, which we just tweaked in this movie."

It was a considerably different process for Bardem than playing the Cormac McCarthy-penned villain of "No Country." Chigurh was virtually devoid of personality, but was rather an embodiment of violence, an angel of death. Silva's terrorism in "Skyfall" is fueled by a past with MI6 head M (Judi Dench), whom he targets in an elaborate cyber scheme. Silva's blond locks and his drive for making public MI6 secrets suggests Ju-

lian Assange, though Bardem says the Wikileaks founder wasn't a deliberate inspiration.

Acting runs in the family for Bardem, who grew up watching his mother agonize between parts, waiting for the phone to ring. He initially pursued painting and fell into acting after try-

ing to earn money as an extra. His mother's advice was to commit fully to the work without compromise, a lesson Bardem has long clung to, carefully choosing his roles with uncommon pickiness. (He'll next star in Terrence Malick's "To The Wonder," to be released next year.)

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Paranormal Activity 4

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05	

Cast: Stephen Dunham, Alexandra Lee
 Genre: Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

The Paranormal Activity film series continues with this fourth entry from Paramount Pictures and returning directors of the previous film, Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman.



Argo

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Ben Affleck, Alan Arkin, John Goodman
 Genre: Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

A CIA agent (Ben Affleck) creates a fake Hollywood production in order to fool Iranian terrorists into releasing a group of U.S. Diplomats in this Warner Bros. docudrama based on the 1979 Tehran hostage crisis. Affleck directs from a script by Chris Terrio, with George Clooney handling producing duties. Alan Arkin, John Goodman, and Bryan Cranston co-star.



Here Comes The Boom

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kevin James, Henry Winkler, Salma Hayek
 Genre: Comedy • Rated PG



Sinister

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ethan Hawke, James Ransone, Vincent D'Onofrio
 Genre: Horror • Rated R



Taken 2

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen
 Genre: Thriller • Rated PG13



Pitch Perfect

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

Cast: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Ben Platt
 Genre: Comedy • Rated PG13



Hotel Transylvania 3D

Friday	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday	7:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
 Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Hotel Transylvania 2D

Friday	4:25
Saturday	4:25
Sunday	4:25
Monday thru Thursday	4:25

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
 Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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Seattle man gets Billy Idol to play his birthday

By GENE JOHNSON
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEATTLE (AP)—Michael Henrichsen has ideas about how he might celebrate his 26th birthday this week.

First, Billy Idol rolls up in a limo and tells him to hop in. There are women everywhere. And later, when the British rock icon takes the stage and rips into "Rebel Yell," bras start flying and 1,800 of his closest friends go wild.

Far-fetched? Maybe not. After a two-year campaign that was part resume stunt, part charity drive and part heart-felt effort to get his far-flung friends together for a great time, the irrepressible Seattle man has actually persuaded Idol to play his birthday party Friday night.

"This is surreal," Henrichsen says. "It should not be happening."

So why is it? In his bedroom, surrounded by Cyndi Lauper and Madonna records, a drumstick he picked up at an Idol show two years ago, and rock posters, Henrichsen explains:

In October 2010, he had just turned 24 and was having an early life crisis. Friends were getting married and moving away. He was working three jobs and making little progress paying off \$40,000 in college loans.

Salvation came over the stereo at the Bellevue Square Mall's Billabong clothing store, where he worked. It was "White Wedding." Henrichsen turned to a coworker: "Wouldn't it be cool if we got Billy Idol to play at my birthday party?"

She laughed. He laughed. No way, right?

But he went home and thought about it. He loved the way Idol blended pop and rock. Idol seemed like a fun guy. Henrichsen loves other music from the '80s, but he couldn't see Prince or Duran Duran agreeing. Idol, who lives in Los Angeles, wouldn't even have to leave his time zone.

Scoring Idol could also be a major coup for his resume. Henrichsen isn't sure what he wants to do for a career—something in entertainment or event planning or PR, maybe—but he thought



Michael Henrichsen poses for a photo, Sept. 19, 2012 in his bedroom at his home in Seattle. Henrichsen created a website and enlisted friends and celebrities around the world in a two-year effort to convince Idol to come play a concert on Oct. 26, 2012 at a Seattle music venue to raise money for charity and celebrate Henrichsen's birthday.

this could get it started.

"I'm like, how feasible is it?" he says. "I realized it would cost a lot of money, something I don't have, so that's where the creativity came into play. How do you network to convince Billy Idol that it would be a good idea for him to come play a show on a specific date in Seattle?"

The first step was getting a friend, Jim Stamper, to build him a website, www.playmybirthdaybillyidol.com. "I thought it was never gonna work," Stamper says.

The next step was to get people to look at the website. Henrichsen hauled a boom box through a deserted Pike Place Market at night, dancing as "Money Money" blared, then posted a video of it. He and friends held a banner over Interstate 5.

But the site didn't start getting much attention until he decided to collect some celebrity endorsements. Comedian Kevin Nealon came to town to do standup, and Henrichsen got him on a 12-second video, telling Idol, "You gotta come to Seattle next October to do ..."

"Michael," Henrichsen prompts.

"... Michael's birthday. It's gonna be awesome."

Endorsements from other B- and C-listers followed: musician Rick Springfield, former Seattle Mariner Jay Buhner, porn star Ron Jeremy. Hanging out at book signings and other celebrity appearances became a fourth job. Only Nikki Sixx from Motley Crue and comedian Tom Green turned him down.

Local media outlets started to notice. And the Google news alerts made their way to Idol's people. They called Henrichsen and told him the campaign was cool, but that they couldn't promise anything.

"When we first became aware of Michael's project we were inclined to see it as just another extreme idea from a well-meaning fan," said Idol's manager, Tony Dimitriadis. "But as Michael's campaign continued, his persistence and resourcefulness won Billy over."

It took a while, though.

In the meantime Henrichsen, who sings, plays guitar and does a passable Idol impersonation, put together an '80s cover band, Nite Wave. They began playing a series of charity concerts dubbed Billy Idol Aid and raised more than \$10,000 for the American Red Cross and Northwest Harvest, which supplies meals to food banks.

But when October 2011 came around, Idol didn't show. Instead, he sent a video, saying he was sorry he couldn't make it—but there was always next year.

Though some friends and family were a bit tired of the project, Henrichsen decided to give it one more year. He had bimonthly chats with Idol's people to update them on his status. Eventually, the Showbox, a Seattle venue that hosted some of the Billy Idol Aid events, made an offer to host the event at its location south of downtown.

Finally, last August, Idol's people called from Japan, where he was touring, and said Idol was in, with his band. Henrichsen says he started screaming and running laps around the mall.

And when 900-plus people showed up for Billy Idol Aid IV, they were treated to an official video announcement from the man himself.

"The people of the world have spoken!" Idol thundered. "The dream will become reality ..."

"It's gonna be pretty much the coolest night ever," says Henrichsen, whose birthday was Monday. "We'll have as much fun as possible before we get to the 9-5 part of my life."

De Niro, Gere, Affleck feted at early film awards

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.—Hollywood warmed up for its awards season with a love fest that recognized top actors and directors for films that haven't been released yet.

Robert De Niro, Bradley Cooper, director David O. Russell and writer-director Quentin Tarantino were among the honorees Monday at the 16th annual Hollywood Film Awards, which bills itself as "the official launch of awards season." The event recognizes films that are likely positioned as awards contenders, such as

Tarantino's anticipated "Django Unchained."

In accepting his award for screenwriter of the year, Tarantino remarked that it was strange to get an award for a film he's still working on, but added that he could use it as ammunition to defend long dialogue scenes during the editing process.

"I'll be able to say, hey, you want to take a line out of my AWARD-WINNING screenplay?" he joked.

Seth Rogen presented the comedy award to writer-director Judd Apatow, whose film "This

Is 40" opens at Christmastime.

"Perhaps the most amazing thing about this awards show tonight is that none of these movies have come out yet," Rogen said. "I haven't even heard of some of these movies yet. That's how far out they are."

"It's nice because it kind of feels like these are the new Golden Globes," Rogen continued. "No one knows what it is. Who voted for this?"

Festival founders say the awards are based on "bodies of work and/or a film or films released during the calendar

year."

"No one has seen my movie," Apatow said as he accepted his trophy. "This is just based on an assumption that it's good."

De Niro, Cooper and Russell were honored for "Silver Linings Playbook," set for release later this year.

Other honorees at the starry dinner at the Beverly Hilton Hotel included Ben Affleck and the cast of "Argo," Amy Adams, Dustin Hoffman and Marion Cotillard. Richard Gere received a lifetime achievement award.

Britney Spears' self-styled manager testifies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears' self-styled manager took the stand in his defamation lawsuit against her parents Tuesday, claiming he acted to protect the pop star from paparazzi and others during a critical period in her life.

Sam Lutfi told jurors how he met Spears at a nightclub in May 2007 and said she struck up a conversation by asking him if she could have his hat.



Lutfi

He said he told her no. "She liked that. She doesn't get told 'no' often. So it was refreshing to hear 'no' once. We started talking, hit it off, and she started calling and texting me. We hung out and became friends," he said.

Lutfi described the singer at that time as being "in crisis mode."

"She was very distraught," he said. "She was having a child custody battle and was in the middle of a divorce." He

added she also had drug problems.

Lutfi said he met Spears right after she had shaved her head during a very public meltdown. "She was dealing with a lot of anxiety," he said.

The witness's testimony was interrupted frequently by objections from lawyers for Spears' parents, Jamie and Lynne Spears. Lutfi's attorney asked him if he took steps to control the press mob that was following Spears constantly.

Lutfi said he alleviated the problem with photographers by texting them where Spears would be going so they could follow her at a safe distance.

"I also started setting up meetings at her home with press photographers so they could get to know her as a human being," he said, referring to himself as the singer's "manager."

Under questioning by his law-

yer, Lutfi said Spears had dubbed him her manager in June 2007 during a meeting with recording executives and had later asked him to take the job.

"I told her I had no experience as a manager for someone of her caliber," he said. "I wanted time to think about it."

But Lutfi said Spears pressed on, saying, "Sam, do you know what this job pays?" and outlined an offer he did not refuse.

"She said, 'I'm getting \$800,000 a month even when I'm not working. You will get 15 percent of that,'" he recalled.

Lutfi said he accepted the job with conditions, insisting that Britney, who had fired her entire staff, allow him to put together a new "varsity team" consisting of a lawyer, agent and business manager.

"And I wanted her to promise me to stay clean," he said, noting he brought drug-sniffing dogs to Spears' home, where they found a baggie full of a white powder. He said she promised and he flushed the powder down the toilet.

He said he then took control.

"I took charge of dealing with the press. I acted as a liaison between Britney and her child custody attorneys. I interfaced with her record label and video producers. I helped her choose artwork for her album and merchandise."

But he said by September, the singer had relapsed on drugs, and he walked away. On Oct. 1, 2007, he said, "Britney called me from her car and asked me to come back and help her kick drugs."

Lutfi said Spears had been parked all night outside a tanning salon in a mini mall, where he found her and took her home. He said he moved into her house after that, although there was no romantic relationship.

Through all of this, he said he had no written management contract nor was he ever paid.

Lutfi, wearing a suit and black-rimmed glasses, spoke in a businesslike manner as he described his increasing role as intermediary in the star's career and private life. He said he broached the subject of her estrangement from her parents and arranged a reunion for Britney and her mother. Jurors were shown a photo of the two women meeting and smiling. He also said he approached her father about a meeting but he declined.

In his lawsuit, Lutfi alleges that Lynne Spears defamed him in her book about her daughter's darkest days, depicting him as a Svengali-like figure who exploited Britney's vulnerabilities and gave her drugs to control her.

He denies those allegations and portrays himself as the singer's protector who managed her career during a time when she was in distress and ultimately hospitalized for mental problems.

Earlier, Superior Court Judge Suzanne Bruguera denied a motion by Lutfi's lawyer to gain access to Spears' medical records from the UCLA neuropsychiatric unit.

The attorney, Joseph Schleimer, said he wanted to know whether the drugs mentioned in Lynne Spears' book were actually in her daughter's system when she was hospitalized.

The judge said it was unlikely that had been determined, and noted the report was inadmissible without testimony from a doctor or other expert witness. The lawyer had listed no such witnesses for the trial.

Lutfi said he attended college but never graduated due to problems with attention deficit disorder, for which he has taken medication for years. He said he works as a consultant in his mother's gas station business and has helped produce music videos for Courtney Love and other rock singers.

Discovery of wife's tattoo shatters husband's trust

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have had many discussions regarding tattoos. She would say she wanted one; I'd disagree.

Well, just before her birthday she had her best friend, a tattoo artist, give her a small tattoo of a dragonfly with dots representing our four children. I didn't know about it for about six weeks, until I walked up behind her at her computer desk and noticed it on her upper shoulder. Our kids knew and hadn't said anything.

I got really mad and left the house for a while. When I returned and began arguing with her, she would say only that it was her body, and she would do whatever she wanted.

I have gotten over the tattoo part, but I haven't forgotten about not knowing and how I finally found out. I am hurt that she didn't tell me. She doesn't think it's worth apologizing for. It seems like everything she does now is one big secret. Please advise.

HURT TO THE BONE IN KENTUCKY

DEAR HURT TO THE BONE: Your wife didn't tell you because she wanted to avoid the argument that she knew would follow. Your children didn't say anything because they were protecting their mother.

It appears that you and your wife have significant communication problems. Counseling might help, and I recommend it because secrets can cause marriages to crumble.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When I was a young woman, I was a single parent. I did it all—the cooking, the cleaning and working. My friends would laugh at how often I'd say, "I need a wife!" I didn't mean it in a sexual way; I simply hated housework and cooking.

When I started dating my husband, my daughter told him, "Mom will never marry you. Men are just more wash and messes." He told her he would do the housework. Stupidly, I believed him.

The economy tanked, I lost my job and I have become a housewife. I feel like I'm serving a life sentence in a prison of my own making. I tried to convince my husband to move so I could find a job and hire a maid. No luck. He decided that since we didn't need as much money, he would work less. Now he works part-time, and I want out.

LIVING IN HELL IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LIVING IN HELL: Tell your husband that you didn't sign up for the role he has assigned to you. I'm sure he already knows you're not happy with the situation. If he is unwilling to resume working full-time, then it will be up to you to find some kind of job that will enable you to save enough money to leave.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Election Day will soon be here, when we go to the polls and elect a Democrat or Republican to the White House.

Afterward, why not stop at your local animal shelter and elect a DemoCAT or a RePUPlican to YOUR house? No matter whom you choose for the White House, you can't go wrong with a furry friend.

They don't make promises they don't keep. They can't reduce the deficit or improve the economy, but what they can do is give unconditional love.

INDEPENDENT ANIMAL ADVOCATE

DEAR INDEPENDENT: I agree that pets give unconditional love—and without "term limits."

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

PSY and UN secretary-general praise each other

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says he is jealous of South Korean rapper PSY.

The U.N. chief joked during a meeting with the rapper that he felt overshadowed by the star, whose video has scored over half a billion views on YouTube.

"I'm a bit jealous. Until two days ago someone told me I am the most famous Korean in the world. Now I have to relinquish. I have no regrets," Ban said.

The two lavished praise on each other at U.N. headquarters Tuesday, with Ban even risking a few of PSY's trademark dance moves from the viral smash video Gangnam Style.

"So now you have first and second famous Korean in the same building," PSY told reporters at a photo opportunity with the U.N. chief.

PSY also had nothing but praise for Ban.

"For all the Koreans he is the guy, you know, in everyone's heart in Korea, the best among the best. To be here and he knows me, even the thing that he knows me is so touching right now, and he's saying



AP

In this Oct. 14, 2012 file photo, South Korean rapper PSY leaves the finish tower after he waved the checkered flag at the conclusion of the Korean Formula One Grand Prix at the Korean International Circuit in Yeongam, South Korea.

he saw my video. He counted my video views," PSY said. "This is much more better feeling than when I did No. 2 on Billboard."

Earlier, Ban met supersonic skydiver Felix Baumgartner and spoke admiringly of his death-defying leap last week from a balloon 24 miles (39 kilometers) above the Earth.

Baumgartner, whose jump broke the sound barrier and set a world record, offered to give Ban skydiving lessons.

It was a break from the conflict and wars the U.N. chief usually deals with. Ban's spokesman, Martin Nesirky, told reporters the secretary-general thinks it's important to engage different parts of society.

T O P T E N

iTunes' Official Music Charts for the week ending Oct. 22, 2012:

TOP SONGS:

1. "Gangnam Style," PSY
2. "State of Grace," Taylor Swift
3. "I Knew You Were Trouble," Taylor Swift
4. "Die Young," Ke\$ha
5. "One More Night," Maroon 5
6. "Some Nights," Fun.
7. "Diamonds," Rihanna
8. "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," Taylor Swift
9. "Locked Out of Heaven," Bruno Mars

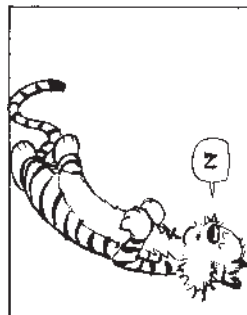
10. "Ball (feat. Lil Wayne)," T.I.

TOP ALBUMS:

1. "Night Train," Jason Aldean
2. "Red," Taylor Swift
3. "Babel," Mumford & Sons
4. "Two Eleven," Brandy
5. "good kid, m.A.A.d city," Kendrick Lamar
6. "Pitch Perfect (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Various Artists
7. "The Heist," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
8. "Living for a Song — A Tribute to Hank Cochran," Jamey Johnson
9. "The Lumineers," The Lumineers
10. "Sigh No More," Mumford & Sons

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



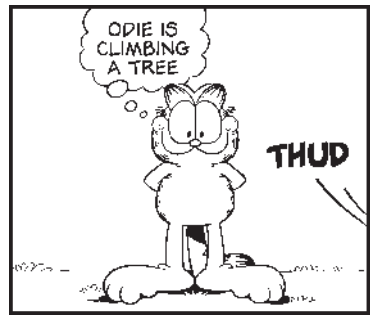
IT'S A HIGH PRICE TO PAY,
BUT NUZZLING TIGER
TUMMIES IS ONE OF THE
GREAT PLEASURES OF LIFE.



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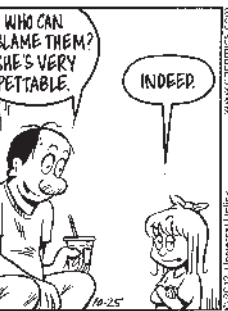
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



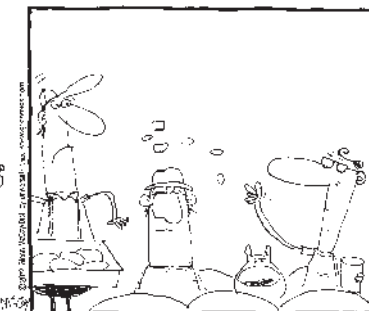
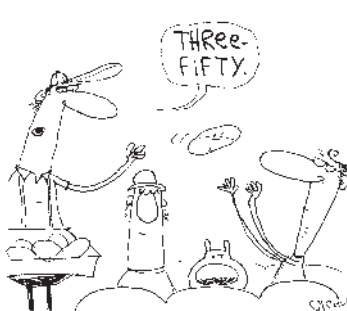
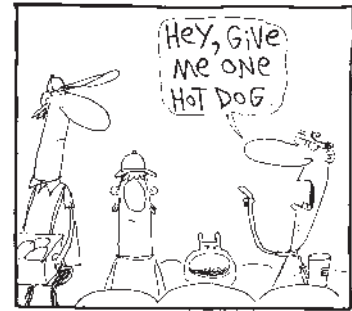
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Tavern
4 Tosses in
8 Slays, "Sopranos" style
12 Altar
13 Voice in an iPhone
14 Law office aide, for short
15 "Sinkers"
17 Caspian feeder
18 Teut.
19 Financial rescue
21 Decapitate
24 Fish eggs
25 Greek vowel
26 Coffee holder
28 Family member
32 Tatters
34 Physique
36 Grabbed
37 Astronaut John
39 Speck
41 Work with
42 Wet wriggler

DOWN

44 Persistent attacks
50 To the — degree
51 Smell
52 Bafflers
56 Other-wise
57 Throw
58 "To be or — ..."
59 Start a garden
60 —
61 Stanley Gardner
61 Wilde-beest

3 Fiber
4 Religious retreat
5 Cacophony
6 Defeat soundly
7 Shankar's instrument
8 Rich
9 Gambling game
10 Herr's wife
11 Shaker contents
16 "Golly!"
20 Debtor's letters
21 Ice mass
22 List-ending abbr.

23 Fix the sound-track
27 Deity
29 Cold symptom
30 Misplace
31 Stretches (out)
33 Showed disdain
35 Two, in Tijuana
38 Butterfly catcher
40 Feels pins and needles
43 Workshop machine
45 Ordinal suffix
46 Troubles
47 Not working
48 American Beauty, e.g.
49 Rain hard
53 Web address
54 A billion years
55 Disco fan on "The Simpsons"

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	B	S	P	E	R	I	S	A	G	E
V	O	W	A	M	I	D	A	N	E	W
E	H	A	S	U	B	L	I	M	A	I
R	E	B	U	S	Y	O	U			
		Z	I	G	S	N	E	I	G	H
S	A	L	I	V	A	T	E	L	O	N
A	I	F	F	I	S	E	T	A	R	
R	O	T	C	S	E	P	A	R	A	T
A	E	S	O	P	S	O	S	O		
		F	R	I	T	O	X	I	C	
S	U	F	F	O	C	A	T	E	M	O
I	S	L	E	C	V	E	R	A	W	L
R	A	Y	E	D	E	A	N	S	A	D

Yesterday's answer 10-25

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ciara, 27; Katy Perry, 28; Josh Henderson, 31; Zachary Knighton, 34.

Happy Birthday: Size up your situation and make your move. It's procrastination that will send you down the wrong path. Keep your wits about you, do your homework quickly and act intuitively. This is not the year to waste time or to sit on the sidelines waiting to see what everyone else does first. Your numbers are 2, 10, 16, 20, 28, 33, 39.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your intuition will not let you down when dealing with partners. Asking questions and using diplomacy will help you get the answers you are looking for so you can make decisions and move forward with your life. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Collaborating with someone with experience will help you in many ways. What you can do when you put your mind to it will help to set your goals higher. Romance is in the stars and will enhance a relationship that's important to you. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't let confusion cost you. Use your imagination and you'll gain instead of lose. Staying power will be the determining factor when it comes to your success. Ask for a favor if it will help you complete a task. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Past experience, an excellent memory and preparation will help you reach your goal. Love is highlighted, and socializing with someone

special to celebrate what you have accomplished will enhance your relationship. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful how you deal with friends and relatives. Not everyone will share your thoughts. Listen carefully and follow practical suggestions that will help you stabilize your personal position. Do what you can to help a good cause. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Get involved in a worthwhile organization, but don't offer more than you can afford to part with financially. More time spent with family, fixing up your home or repairing a relationship that needs a little tender loving care is your best bet. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): The element of surprise will make what you do more inviting to someone you want to entice to join you. Love is in the stars, and getting together with someone from your past will change your outlook and get you back on track. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Assess your situation at home. Personal changes can be made that will boost your confidence and help you move in a direction you find more suitable. Let your intuition guide you when dealing with older relatives or someone you must answer to. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Expect the unexpected when dealing with friends, relatives or people in your community. Not everyone will be honest, which can send you down the wrong path. Focus more on your home and the changes that will improve your lifestyle. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take a walk down memory lane and remember some of the people you have known who may be able to contribute to your current situation. You have plenty to gain if you attend a reunion or call up an old friend. ★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Consider your options. Take note of the costs involved before you take on a new contract, lease or payment. You don't want to limit your freedom to do the things you enjoy most. Alterations to your living space will improve your situation. ★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Show off; what you do to impress people will help you win a contract or position that can alter your future. Love and romance are in a high cycle, and plans to celebrate with someone you care for will improve your relationship. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are insightful, sensitive and extremely creative. You are nurturing and tactful.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	3				9					
7	9		3			4				
					6		2			
	5					3		8		
1		2						7		
	6		4							
		9			7			5	2	
			5					1		

Difficulty Level ★★

10/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	2	4	5	7	1	3	8
5	7	3	8	9	1	2	6	4
1	8	4	6	3	2	5	9	7
2	3	8	9	7	4	6	1	5
7	4	5	2	1	6	9	8	3
9	6	1	5	8	3	7	4	2
3	2	6	1	4	5	8	7	9
8	1	7	3	2	9	4	5	6
4	5	9	7	6	8	3	2	1

Difficulty Level ★★

P-2

WONDERWORD

By DAVID
OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ASHTON KUTCHER

Solution: 10 letters

E	V	A	N	T	C	E	F	F	E	L	L	I	O	T
Y	N	D	S	O	H	O	D	N	E	T	N	I	N	M
L	I	E	E	T	S	R	A	P	L	U	S	K	E	S
F	S	E	M	G	E	A	I	M	O	T	S	D	K	K
R	E	P	V	F	G	P	E	L	A	S	K	E	C	O
E	I	A	R	O	L	U	F	S	L	N	N	M	I	O
T	T	S	H	E	L	A	R	A	N	E	A	I	H	L
T	N	W	M	S	A	E	H	E	T	E	R	M	C	D
U	E	S	I	A	U	D	K	A	L	H	P	O	T	O
B	V	I	C	T	R	A	G	I	D	T	E	O	O	O
O	E	N	H	M	T	R	T	U	L	N	S	R	B	G
B	S	U	A	I	I	E	I	S	T	A	E	O	N	
B	H	K	E	L	S	O	R	E	D	O	O	R	I	
Y	O	E	L	A	P	U	N	K	J	F	L	W	W	
D	W	C	H	O	O	S	E	M	Y	L	L	A	T	

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10/25

A Lot Like Love, Amana, Aplusk, Bobby, Butterfly, Choose Me, Demi Moore, Dude, Effect, Elliot, Evan, Good Looks, Goofy, Just, Kelso, Kunis, Married, Michael, Mila, Nintendo, Open Season, Pranks, Punk'd, Robot Chicken, Rugged, Seventies, Show, Spread, Stepfather, Tall, Tausha, Thriller, Tom, Twin, Twitter, Two and a Half Men, Wrestler

Yesterday's Answer: Elite

© 2012 THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD. Volume 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 or 36 need 36-55 min. 35 min. 36-55 min. 36 min. 37-55 min. 37 min. 38-55 min. 38 min. 39-55 min. 39 min. 40-55 min. 40 min. 41-55 min. 41 min. 42-55 min. 42 min. 43-55 min. 43 min. 44-55 min. 44 min. 45-55 min. 45 min. 46-55 min. 46 min. 47-55 min. 47 min. 48-55 min. 48 min. 49-55 min. 49 min. 50-55 min. 50 min. 51-55 min. 51 min. 52-55 min. 52 min. 53-55 min. 53 min. 54-55 min. 54 min. 55-55 min. 55 min.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

LIANGXIANG L. HEMLEY)
Petitioner,) FCD-DI CIVIL
vs.) ACTION
NO. 12-0080
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
JAMESON P. HEMLEY)
Respondent.)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 502592 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 13th day of September, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

ErjiangLi Guan Manglona)
Petitioner,) FCD DI
vs.) CIVIL ACTION
NO. 12-0448
SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION
Nobert King Manglona)
Respondent.)

TO THE ABOVE NAME RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is PMB 1266 Box 10003, Saipan MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at P.O. Box 500307 Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 26th day of September, 2012.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Well-rested Tigers take on well-tested Giants



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Jim Leyland and the Detroit Tigers found out the hard way that rest means

rust in the World Series.

Six years ago, their last Series appearance, they lounged around for nearly a week before getting wiped out by St. Louis.

This time, while once again waiting for the National League opponent to be decided, they stayed busy by working on bunts, playing against their instructional league team and letting ace Justin Verlander throw to hitters.

“Well, we just tried to come up with something,” Leyland said Tuesday. “It wasn’t like in 2006, where some people would indicate we sat around happy to get there, not doing anything, eating bon-bons.”

“That wasn’t the case. We ran into bad weather problems in Detroit, so we were really handicapped,” the manager said. “So this time we’ve done some things to try to keep us from being idle for four or five days. I definitely think it affected the last World Series.”

Verlander will start Game 1 on Wednesday night against Barry Zito and the San Francisco Giants, fresh off another stirring comeback and a Game 7 win Monday night over the Cardinals.

“I feel like I haven’t played in over two months when you clinch so quick like this and have to wait for the other team,” Tigers reliever Jose Valverde said.

Not quite that long.

“What is it, eight months of baseball? What’s five days?” Tigers star Prince Fielder asked.

Said Zito: “I guess we can hypothesize for a while on how prepared they are, being that they haven’t played these high-intensity games.”

The Tigers made it easy on themselves, sweeping the Yankees in the AL championship series. They traveled to San Francisco on Tuesday and held a late-afternoon workout at AT&T Park.

“I loved it because it means we’re in the World Series,” Tigers catcher Alex Avila said. “Someone asked me that question after we won and I was like, ‘Would you rather if we had lost some of those games?’ It doesn’t really mat-



Workers paint the field at AT&T Park after a workout for baseball's World Series Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012, in San Francisco. The San Francisco Giants play the Detroit Tigers in Game 1 on Wednesday, Oct. 24.

ter to me. We did everything we could to stay mentally sharp.”

The Giants had no trouble in that department. They’ve been on quite a wild ride this October, first overcoming a 2-0 deficit to beat Cincinnati in the best-of-five division series, then escaping a 3-1 hole to beat the defending champion Cardinals in the NLCS.

“You have to throw it all away because it could work in either team’s favor,” Giants shortstop Brandon Crawford said. “We’ve been playing every day, so guys might be a little more tired, whereas they’ve got more rest. Then again, we’ve been playing, so we’ve got our timing, where they might not.”

And this little fact: Three times in the past, the World Series has matched a team that went to Game 7 in the LCS against a club that swept its series. In all three instances, the team coming off a Game 7 win breezed to the championship.

Boston swept Colorado in 2007, St.

Louis chased Detroit in five games in 2006 and Orel Hershiser and the Dodgers beat Oakland in five games in 1988.

“We’re fine. I think we’re in the groove and feeling good,” Giants ace Matt Cain said.

Triple Crown winner Miguel Cabrera has gone both routes in early rounds. The Tigers slugger was a rookie with the Marlins in 2003 when they rallied past the Chicago Cubs to win the seven-game NLCS and went on to beat the Yankees for the title.

This time, the Tigers gave themselves five off days.

“It’s very different. In ’03 we came from behind like San Francisco did this year,” he said. “We have to focus on what we can do. We can’t focus on, ‘OK we haven’t played, we’re going to get down.’ It’s tough. We have to be ready to play tomorrow and we’ll see what happens.”

Leyland and Giants manager Bruce Bochy both hoped to be a quick study.

There’s not a lot of history between these longtime franchises - they’ve never met in the postseason, and have played only 12 times since interleague action began in 1997.

“I don’t really know the Giants that well. I’m kind of getting a crash course on them,” Leyland said.

“But to be honest, when they were down 0-2 going into Cincinnati having to win three games, for me that was unbelievable. So nothing surprised me when they got to the championship series after I saw what they did in the divisional series,” he said.

Likewise for Bochy.

“I’ll have to learn a lot about them real soon, to be honest,” he said Monday night.

“I know what a great club they are. And we know all about the guy we’re going to be facing opening day and their whole staff,” he said. “They swept the Yankees. That tells you how good they are.”

Verlander is armed and dangerous for postseason

DETROIT (AP)—Justin Verlander’s introduction to postseason baseball six years ago left him dazzled and exhausted.

Worn down toward the end of his rookie season, he made his playoff debut at Yankee Stadium. A couple weeks later, he was on the mound for Game 1 of the World Series.

“It was such a whirlwind, really, that entire season. I remember standing on the mound in old Yankee Stadium ... and growing up as a kid you see all of the postseason games and all of the magic that had happened in that stadium, and it was kind of a surreal moment for me,” the Detroit ace said.

“I feel like I have pitched in big games now and understand what my body’s going to be going through and what my mind is going to be going through and I am able to rein it in a little more and use it more to my advantage.”

Verlander is now 29 and he returns to the Fall Classic a more mature pitcher than he was in 2006. His last two seasons have been nothing short of phenomenal, and now he’s adding another line to his resume with the first truly outstanding postseason stretch of his career.

In three playoff starts against Oakland and the New York Yankees, he’s allowed all of two runs - a pair of harmless solo homers that did little to slow Detroit’s march to the American League pennant. On Wednesday night, he’ll pitch Game 1 against San Francisco.

“He’s learned to handle these situations. He’s learned how to stay pretty calm throughout the game in these big-game situations,” manager Jim Leyland said.

The 6-foot-5 right-hander can make pitching look remarkably effortless. Verlander will often settle into an early groove without necessarily reaching back for his triple-digit fastball until the later innings.

“I think you can help to build your natural ability,” said Verlander, who led the majors in pitches thrown in 2011 and 2012. “I think a lot of the work I do in the offseason in my lower half and my core allows me to stay strong throughout the game so that I don’t start to break down when I get to 100 pitches.”

Verlander went 24-5 in 2011, sweeping the AL MVP and Cy Young awards. Although he won only 17 games this year, his ERA was still a sparkling 2.64 and he came within two outs of throwing a third career no-hitter against Pittsburgh in May.

About the only thing he can’t seem to do is hit. Verlander is 0-for-his-career at the plate, although if he breaks that drought in the World Series, it’s fair to assume his teammates and manager will never hear the end of it.

After appearing on Conan O’Brien’s show and promoting a video game with model Kate Upton, Verlander’s newfound celebrity status doesn’t seem to have affected his pitching. He’s looked as focused as ever this postseason.

Detroit is trying to win its first World Series since 1984. Verlander will oppose Barry Zito in the opener.

“I had the opportunity to pitch in the World Series before,” Verlander said. “I don’t think I really appreciated the magnitude of how hard it is to get there.”

In 2006, Verlander started Game 1 of the World Series, and the Tigers lost to St. Louis 7-2. Verlander gave up six earned runs and made an error on a pickoff attempt, and Detroit couldn’t break through against Cardinals starter Anthony Reyes.

Giants’ Zito to start World Series opener

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—From postseason bystander to starting the World Series opener. That’s how far Barry Zito has come in two years to resurrect his career.

The resurgent left-hander will pitch Game 1 for the San Francisco Giants on Wednesday night against Justin Verlander and the Detroit Tigers.

Manager Bruce Bochy said Tuesday he will go with Zito, who has turned around his career this year - and Bochy was eager and proud to give the pitcher the news, once they finally connected that is.

“I tried to call him all day. He left his phone at the ballpark, so I couldn’t get ahold of him,” Bochy said. “But he was ecstatic. He was proud, honored that we have the trust in him to start Game 1.”

Zito’s stellar outing in a 5-0 victory on Friday night in Game 5 of the NL championship series at Busch Stadium helped San Francisco rally from a 3-1 series deficit against the defending

champion St. Louis Cardinals to return to the World Series for the second time in three years.

Left off the postseason roster for all three rounds when the Giants won it all in 2010, Zito made a conscious decision to find his way by just plain having fun again - forgetting one bad start and moving on to the next. Whatever he has done to change his mental approach, it has certainly paid off on the mound.

“It’s not important to reflect right now. There’s work to do,” Zito said. “I’m going to be on the mound here in the next 24 hours, so that’s where my focus is at.”

For Bochy, leaving Zito off the roster was among the toughest calls he has made as a manager. That made delivering the good news Tuesday so much sweeter.

“I couldn’t be happier for him. It says a lot about his mental toughness, his makeup,” Bochy said. “I mentioned this in 2010, it wasn’t easy not

to put him on the postseason roster. He was struggling in September. But the way he handled it was so impressive. He went out, I think he threw a bullpen that day, and throughout the postseason he kept himself ready in case something happened. He didn’t hang his head and he even threw to hitters.”

It doesn’t hurt that Zito now has four pitches to baffle batters aside from just that nasty curveball that has defined his career since back in the early days of the Big Three - with Tim Hudson and Mark Mulder - across the bay with the Oakland Athletics.

“He’s been through a lot, obviously. He took the beatings,” Giants general manager Brian Sabean said of Zito. “He’s always been a stand-up guy, he’s never stopped working. In his own way he’s never stopped believing and he’s made changes. He’s made changes when he had to. I actually don’t think other than when he first came here that he was supposed to be

the lead dog in the staff as it turned out the young guys were so good so fast. You look back in Oakland he was just one of the group. I don’t think the money ever bothered him.”

Bochy credits the work Zito did with pitching coach Dave Righetti to constantly make adjustments and find what would work.

“It’s hard to sum it up in one answer,” Zito said after beating the Cardinals. “It’s just a plethora of things that I’ve done and gone through here with the Giants. But the most important thing was to come out and give everything I’ve got.”

The Giants have won Zito’s last 13 starts, dating to Aug. 7. The 2002 AL Cy Young Award winner with Oakland went 15-8 for his most wins since joining the Giants on a \$126 million, seven-year contract before the 2007 season.

And what ideal timing for Zito to shine in a season that two-time NL Cy Young Award winner Tim Lincecum faltered. Lincecum will remain in the bullpen for now, giving Bochy ample options how to use him.

Coach K: LeBron might have 20-assist game



NORTH CAROLINA (AP)—LeBron James with 20 assists? Mike Krzyzewski thinks it's possible.

The Hall of Fame Duke coach—and James' coach on the U.S. Olympic teams that won gold medals in Beijing and London—said in a televised interview that he thinks the three-time NBA MVP may have more assist chances than ever before this season, especially with the Miami Heat having so many players who can connect from 3-point range.

"Don't be surprised with a 20-assist game," Krzyzewski told Sun Sports, which televises Heat games, in a halftime interview of Miami's game in Raleigh, N.C. against the Charlotte Bobcats. "I'm telling you, because he has all these shooters and he's going to get easy assists."

James' career high for assists is 15, done three times. For his career, he's averaged 6.9 assists per game.

"That's a lot of pressure," James said when told of Krzyzewski's 20-assist prediction, not long after the Heat finished off a 98-92 victory. "But it's more pressure on our shooters. I'm going to get them the ball."

Krzyzewski has several long-standing ties to the Heat organization. He's close with Heat managing general partner Micky Arison. Heat CEO Nick Arison—the owner's son—was the Blue Devils' student manager for four years under Krzyzewski, who coached Shane Battier at Duke and had James, Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh on Olympic teams. Wade and Bosh were on the 2008 team in Beijing, then couldn't play on the London 2012 team because of injuries.

And on Tuesday, he raved about all of them, plus said that he told Battier



Charlotte Bobcats' Jeffery Taylor (44) chases Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) during the second half of an NBA preseason basketball game in Raleigh, N.C., Tuesday, Oct. 23, 2012. Miami won, 98-92. AP

it would be a mistake if he didn't sign with Miami in 2011.

"I don't think there's anybody in the world who defends the ball screen any better than Chris Bosh," Krzyzewski said, in reference to his Olympic experiences with the Heat players. "Dwyane was selfless. He said, 'I'll come off the bench.' So he comes off the bench and he's our leading scorer. And LeBron, you know, LeBron was LeBron."

As Krzyzewski was speaking live, James returned to the court to warm up for the second half. When he saw Krzyzewski courtside, he walked over and gave him a warm embrace.

"Just watching him tonight for a little bit, how much he loves to play," Krzyzewski said. "He's a student of the game. He's one of a kind. I'm so glad he's made the decisions he's made and he's with quality people, the level of talent around him. He's happy. He's a happy

guy and a very talented guy."

The Heat added Ray Allen—the NBA's career leader in 3-pointers—in the offseason, along with Rashard Lewis, adding them to a list of shooters in Miami that already included Battier, Mike Miller, James Jones and Mario Chalmers, among others.

Krzyzewski thinks they'll all benefit from James' passing.

"How many 3's are you going to shoot this year?" Krzyzewski asked.

Falcons, Giants get Top 2 spots in AP Pro32 power rankings



NEW YORK (AP)—Being the NFL's only unbeaten team has its perks - at least this week.

The Atlanta Falcons had their bye weekend and still remained first in the AP Pro32 NFL power rankings Tuesday, but the New York Giants gained ground after a thrilling win over the Washington Redskins.

The Falcons received 10 first-place votes and 378 points from The Associated Press' 12-member panel of media members who regularly cover the NFL. The Giants, who beat the Redskins 27-23 on Eli Manning's 77-yard touchdown pass to Victor Cruz with 1:13 left in the game, had two first-place votes and 366 points.

Last week, the Giants had one-first

place vote and trailed the Falcons by 17 points. The margin is 12 points this week.

"Who's better than Eli Manning in the last two minutes? Nobody," said Sporting News' Clifton Brown, who had the Giants first and the Falcons fifth on his ballot even though the defending Super Bowl champions have two losses.

The Falcons needed some last-minute heroics to pull out a few games, and Sunday they visit Philadelphia - a team also coming off a bye but unbeaten following its week off under coach Andy Reid.

"Falcons have been cutting it close in recent weeks, relying on some dramatic late-game drama from Matt & Matt (Ryan and Bryant)," said Newsday's Bob Glauber. "Might need more of the same on Sunday at Philly."

The Houston Texans rebounded from their loss to Green Bay by thumping the Baltimore Ravens 43-13 and moving up to third with 362 points. San Francisco was fourth with 344 points and Chicago fifth with 341 points.

New Orleans made the biggest move after its second straight win, advancing six spots to No. 17 despite a 2-4 record. Voters, though, remain leery.

"Don't worry about Drew Brees and the offense, but you should be concerned about that defense," said Rich Gannon on CBS Sports/Sirius XM.

The defense faces another stern test Sunday night against Peyton Manning and the Denver Broncos, who are up to ninth with a 3-3 record.

The Ravens tumbled five places to eighth.

"This is still a really good team, it

just played a really bad game. The Ravens will be back," said the Chicago Tribune's Dan Pompei.

Clark Judge of CBSSports.com had a different verdict.

"Seldom has 5-2 felt worse," he said. "It's not just that the Ravens lost their first game without Ray Lewis and Lardarius Webb; it's that they were destroyed."

Also dropping five spots was Arizona, which fell to 19th after its third straight loss. The Cardinals, who host San Francisco on Monday night, were as high as fifth after getting off to a 4-0 start.

"Must dig in Monday night versus 49ers," said ESPN's Chris Berman.

Jacksonville held down the 32nd and last spot after a 26-23 overtime loss to Oakland.

NHL rejects players' attempt to restart talks



NEW YORK (AP)—The little hope that existed for a full NHL season appears to be gone.

Shortly after the players' reached out to the league on Tuesday night to restart stalled labor negotiations, NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly rebuffed the union's attempt.

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said last week, in presenting the league's most recent offer to the players, that if a new collective bargaining agreement

wasn't reached by this Thursday, it would be impossible for a full regular-season schedule to be played.

No talks have been scheduled, and no last-minute discussions seem to be on tap.

"I don't anticipate any taking place for the balance of the week," Daly said in an email to The Associated Press on Tuesday night. "The union has rejected the proposal we made last Tuesday and is not offering another one. We see nothing to be gained at this point by

meeting just to meet."

Following a call for the union's executive board Tuesday night, the players' association informed the NHL it is willing to meet on Wednesday "or any other date, without preconditions, to try to reach an agreement," the players' association said in a statement.

The NHL's response wasn't what the union had hoped to hear.

The sides haven't met since the league turned down three counterproposals from the union on Thursday,

two days after the NHL's offer that included a 50-50 split of hockey-related revenue. Because the players' association hasn't shown an inclination to negotiate off of that NHL proposal, a stalemate now exists and could last for a while.

"The league is apparently unwilling to meet," NHLPA special counsel Steve Fehr said in a statement. "That is unfortunate as it is hard to make progress without talking."

The developments on Tuesday night came hours after more discourse between the sides on the 38th day of the league's lockout.

Bulls vow to get by without Rose

CHICAGO (AP)—Their superstar is injured, their so-called "bench mob" pretty much gone and despite all that, the Chicago Bulls insist one thing hasn't changed.

They're not rolling over. The obits are premature.

The Bulls believe they still have plenty left even though Derrick Rose is expected to miss a big chunk of the season recovering from a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee and most of the reserves that gave Chicago one of the NBA's deepest benches are gone. They insist they will be factors in the Eastern Conference after capturing the top seed the past two years.

"I think we can be real good, knowing the character of this team," Rose said.

Of course, it won't be easy without their superstar.

The Bulls were widely viewed as the biggest threat to Miami in the East before Rose was injured late in a playoff-opening win over Philadelphia. With Joakim Noah (sprained ankle) also going down in the series, Chicago bowed out in the first round one year after losing to the Heat in the conference finals.

With their franchise player missing from the start this year, the Bulls have a huge void to fill.

"Trying to do too much would be the biggest mistake I could make," Deng said. "I know how good I could be when I'm myself. For all of us as a team, no one individual is going to do what Derrick did. As a group, we all have to commit. I'm really looking forward to it."

For the Bulls to hold their ground, a lot will depend on Deng's left wrist and Richard Hamilton's durability, not to mention how all the new pieces mesh.

With Rose out, the Bulls brought back veteran Kirk Hinrich for a second stint to run the point and ultimately move into a backup role. They also shook up their bench, trading away Kyle Korver and losing Omer Asik, C.J. Watson and Ronnie Brewer in free agency. In their place are veterans such as Nate Robinson, Nazr Mohammed, Vladimir Radmanovic and Marco Belinelli.

As for Deng, he insisted his wrist has improved dramatically after he tore a ligament in it last year. He opted against surgery, and he said it held up well playing for Great Britain in the Olympics, adding there's "no reason for me not to have a great year."

It would help, too, if Hamilton stayed healthy after injuries limited him to 28 games. In his first season with the Bulls, he posted his lowest scoring average since he was a rookie with Washington in 1999-2000 at 11.6 points per game.

They also need Carlos Boozer to step up, along with Noah and Taj Gibson.

"Obviously, missing Derrick, that's a huge blow," Hinrich said. "I know every day we're going to be out there and compete, share the ball. I'm excited to be a part of something like that."

Chicago did win 18 of the 27 games Rose missed during the regular season a year ago, but the supporting cast was different. Most of the bench players are gone, even if the rest of the starting lineup is back, and that feeling that the Bulls are in a holding pattern, that they're biding their time until he regains his dominant form, lingers.

Sonics seize seventh win in Rotary caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The Sonics mounted a big second half push to overcome Kagman, 87-73, and seize their seventh win in as many games in the U20 division of the 21st Annual Rotary Club of Saipan Youth Basketball League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The comeback win nosed the reigning champions ahead of the Rollers 2 (6-0) in the stand-

ings and dropped Kagman to a 2-5 slate.

Kagman came ready to play last Monday and established a 29-19 favor in the opening 10 minutes, built off center Jason Lampkin's 10 points and Andrew Paulino's 7 markers.

Jimmy Tudela and Nevin Salem teamed up for 11 points for Sonics in the first exchange. The pair then combined for 11 more in the second quarter, however Kagman continued to pound the ball inside to Lampkin, who tallied another 10 markers to keep

his team in the driver's seat at the half, 50-40.

The Sonics went on to regroup at halftime, as they found a way to stop Lampkin, who was contained to just two baskets in the third quarter. Jonathan Santos tried to fill the void, but to little avail, as he was also held in check for only a handful of points. Kagman ran on fumes from the very start of the fourth quarter, as Lampkin omanaged to sink only a pair of free throws at crunch time and the combined 10 points of Jonathan and Jesse Santos did

As Kagman began to fall

apart, Tudela continued to do the damage for the Sonics in the third quarter and led the charge with 12 points.

Kagman's eight-man roster was a little shorthanded against the Sonics' 12-player lineup and fatigue caught up with the former as the game progressed. Kagman ran on fumes from the very start of the fourth quarter, as Lampkin omanaged to sink only a pair of free throws at crunch time and the combined 10 points of Jonathan and Jesse Santos did

not get it done for Kagman.

The Sonics' point man, Jack Aranda, put it into overdrive late in the game and fed the rock to a plethora of teammates to complement his six markers in the fourth.

Tudela turned in a team-high 24 points, while Salem added 20. Lampkin topped the box score on the short end with his 26.

Meanwhile, the Oleai Ol' Aces (3-2) were issued a forfeit victory over the Chalan Kanoa Saints (2-6), who have now failed to appear in their last four games,

dating back to Oct. 11.

Games in the U20 division continued yesterday with Rollers 2 scheduled to face Hi-5 (2-4). Then today, LD Prime (2-4) takes on Mariana Resort/NMC Proa (5-1). RBC's Rollers 1 (2-3) and the Agape Torch-bearers (0-6) complete the field.

Sonics 87 – Tudela 24, Salem 20, De Guzman 15, Alegre 14, Aranda 6, Del Rosario 4, Javier 2, Villanueva 2

Kagman 73 – Lampkin 26, Je. Santos 13, Jo. Santos 13, Malwelbug 8, Paulino 7, Sabulao 4, Jones 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-29, 40-50, 64-61, 87-73.

NMA cross country series starts this Saturday



The 2012 NMA All Schools Cross Country Series will kick off this Saturday at the CPA Field.

Registration starts at 3pm, while races begin at 4pm with runners competing in three divisions and five age groups.

The elementary division will have separate races in the U8, U10, and U10 age groups and runners will race in the shorter course around the old football field. A race briefing will be held before the event kicks off and markers will be placed along the course to guide runners. In the junior high school (for

U14) and high school (U18) divisions, participants will race in the longer course.

After the Saturday races, the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics will have two more preliminary competitions before holding the All Schools championships. The second cross country series will take place at the Civic Center in Susupe on Nov.

10 at 4pm, while the American Memorial Park will host the third series on Nov. 24 at 6:30am. The championship will also be held around the AMP on Dec. 1 with races beginning at 6:30am.

For more information, contact Elias Rangamar at 235-1775 or email at eliasrangamar@hotmail.com (PR)



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
The U18 runners dash from the starting line during the 2011 All Schools Cross Country Championships at AMP.

ORIOLES

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kept their title bid alive with a 6-0 win over the Dodgers in the lower bracket elimination match and another shut-out victory, 2-0, against the second-ranked Reds in the semifinals, assumed a 2-0 lead in the finals off a sacrifice fly by Ricardo Dela Cruz and an error that enabled Leroy Regis to scamper home after reaching with a one-out base hit.

Orioles' Jun Rabauliman drove in his leadoff man, Jake Flores, in the bottom frame to get a run back, but they were held at second and third base as Rockies' starting pitcher, Regis, battled out of the jam.

Rockies' Jose Lizama drew

a one-out walk in the second inning and scored off an error, but Orioles' Flores wiped it away with an RBI single that brought around Dave Hosono. Then the Rockies started the third inning at the top of their lineup and stormed ahead, 6-2, off two hits and some errors. Justin Santos led off the frame and hustled out an error, while Regis followed with a base hit and they both later scored off errors. Dela Cruz also reached on an error and was knocked in by Halstead.

The O's halved the deficit, 3-6, in the bottom portion when Rabauliman led off with a free pass and advanced to third base off a single by T.J. Sablan before sprinting home off a fielder's choice by Frankie Camacho.

The Orioles' Mike Muna came to the mound for Jake Santos to start the fourth inning and the young gun cut through the Rockies' bottom three batters with a pair of fly outs and a grounder to short.

Rockies' Jose Lizama took the ball from Regis earlier in the third inning and ran into some trouble when he came out to start the fourth after containing the O's to just one run earlier during his shift. Lizama got his first man to fly out, but then walked the next three batters, causing Halstead to take the ball in relief.

Unfortunately for the Rockies, their second reliever came in cold and walked the next three batters, forcing yet another substitution. The Rockies' third reliever, Ray Tenorio, found his zone right

away and bagged two strikeouts to get the team out of the nightmare inning. However, the damage was already done, as the Rockies essentially gifted the O's the lead, 7-6, in the form of two RBI walks and two runs from a passed ball and a wild pitch.

Now with a one-run lead at the start of the fifth inning, Muna bagged a pair of strikeouts and stranded a man at first base to keep the Rockies at bay. The first three O's batters then safely made it on base, but the Rockies somehow escaped the frame unscathed as their defense threw out the lead runner at third base before Tenorio managed a pair of pop flies.

Muna endured some control issues from the hump and gave up three straight walks, forcing Frankie Camacho to step in and

try to work some magic. Camacho got a pop up out of his first man and needed just one more to get away with the lead intact, however Rockies' Santos singled in Paul Celis before being gunned down at second trying to stretch out a double.

Oriole's TJ Sablan started off the bottom frame with a walk and the Rockies' Lizama returned to finish his pitch limit. Lizama gave up two hits right away, the second being the go-ahead single by Kenji Yamagata, which was all the O's needed, as Camacho and his boys whipped up a double play to end the game, 1-2-3.

Though he gave up three walks and essentially blew the lead in the sixth inning, Muna gave up zero hits and struck out three batters in his 2 and 1/3 innings of

work in the thick of the match. His entry provided stability in the latter part of the game and Camacho picked up right where he left off for the save.

The Orioles were presented with the perpetual championship trophy during the awards ceremony held after the finals. They finished the regular season with an 11-3 record to top the 4-team field and gain the No. 1 seeding in the playoffs, ahead of the Reds (8-7), Dodgers (7-8), and Rockies (4-11).

Despite placing last in the playoffs, the Rockies went on to eliminate two higher seeded foes and almost pulled off the upset against the favored Orioles if not for a costly defensive breakdown in the bottom of the fourth inning of the finals.

HI-FIVE

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coached team was back to the foul line a few seconds later as after Barcinas drilled his second charity, Zach Babauta' inbound pass to Fital to the Hoops frontcourt was intercepted by Peters. The Hoops were then forced to foul Rasa to stop the clock and the Hi-Five wingman also had a split for their 82-77 advantage, 28.6 to go in the match.

The Hoops cut the deficit to three after getting a quick basket from Dexter Tenorio, but Ig-

uel answered with a pair of free throws to seal the win in the last 11 seconds of the match. Trevor Ogumoro, who was brought back to the bench midway in the fourth due to foul trouble and went cold in his return in the last two minutes, made a buzzer-beating put-back to peg the final score.

The Hoops and Hi-Five finished the regular season with similar 5-3 records and since they were ranked third and fourth in the team standings, spectators expected a tough match between the two teams and they did not disappoint.

Hi-Five led by only 6 af-

ter the first period, 27-21, and held a shaky 43-40 advantage at halftime. The third quarter then became a seesaw battle and the match was back to square one after 30 minutes of play, 62-all. The Hoops and Hi-Five breathed on each other's neck in the fourth before the former collapse in the last two minutes.

Ashley's vs Mobil

Ashley's/Brabu duels Mobil in the first semis pairing today at 6:30pm, following the former's 94-81 victory over the Archers.

Ashley's managed to cruise to the win in the fourth after gain-

ing momentum in the third canto. Ashley's led by only five at halftime, 49-44, when its players got their acts together in the third and extended the lead to 12, 75-63. Four Ashley's players nailed at least two field goals each in the third canto to start a breakaway and the Archers failed to make headway in the fourth, giving up the third semis seat to their foes.

Brandon Tania paced Ashley's with his 21 points, while Manolo Manalo and Rolly Paraiso added 18 and 16, respectively.

The Archers had four of their

five starters scoring in twin digits, including Ivan Devero, who had 13 markers, but was held to only one field goal in the second half. The Archers also lacked support from the bench, while Ashley's got 19 points from its second stringers.

First Game

Ashley's/Brabu 94 – Tania 21, Manalo 18, Paraiso 16, Aquino 8, Norita 8, De Dios 5, Mangali 4, Inos 4, Montes 2.

Archers 81 – Bernardo 17, Muleta 17, Mendoza 14, Deve-

ro 13, Barrios 10, R. Usi 4.

Scoring by quarters: 26-26, 49-44, 75-63, 94-81.

Second Game

Hi-Five 84 – Barcinas 23, Iguel 12, Peters 11, Mendiola 11, Rasa 9, Villacrusis 8, Standish 3.

Hoopaholics 81 – Ogumoro 20, Fital 18, Mendez 12, Lisua 8, Manibusan 8, Tenorio 2, Babauta 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 27-21, 43-40, 62-62, 84-81.

RUSELLE

From Page 28

finals, Zapanta's seventh place finish is the best that any Saipan bowler has achieved since joining the Intercity competition in 2003. Ruselle's brother, Raymond, also made it to the Top 16 of the Men's Masters event last year in Singapore, but lost in the first round.

Joining Ruselle in the Men's Masters was Simon Manacop,

who was ranked No. 15 and fell to No. 2 finisher Jeremy Posadas of Paranaque Philippines. Manacop put up a good fight against his favored foe, taking Game 1, 259-256, before Posadas swept the last two games, 246-232, 216-212.

The Men's Masters was down to four players with the finals scheduled last night. Guam's Jay Leon Guerrero led the semis cast, which also includes his teammate, John John Ada, Lee, and Jurong's Paiman Dali.

SIS

From Page 28

SIS White made light work of Saipan Southern High School's Manta Rays in all three sets, 25-15, 25-13, 15-9, to become the only undefeated squad in the eight-team field. The White Geckos also served SSSH its third loss in four matches.

In other results, SIS Green Geckos labored a victory over the MHS Yellow Dolphins (1-3) after the first two sets. SIS Green started strong out of the gate and took the first set, 25-9, and hung tough in the second set to secure the nod, 25-19. The Green Geckos dropped the third set, 12-15, but they still improved to a 3-1 card, tying Grace Christian Academy's Eagles and the

MHS Blue Dolphins for second place in the standings.

The Eagles remain a strong contender after brooming Mount Carmel School's Knights in three sets. The Eagles soundly downed their opponents in the first set, 25-15, and mustered one final push in the second duel to secure the win, 25-22, before bagging the sweep, 15-12.

MHS Blue received a forfeit

win over the Kagman High School Ayuyus (0-4), who have been no-shows since opening day.

The season continues today at 4pm with SIS White taking on SIS Green on the north court and SSSH clashing with MHS Yellow on the south end. Then at 5pm, KHS meets GCA on the north square, while MHS Blue collides with MCS on the south court.

COPSSA Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball League

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Whispering Palms poses with its championship trophy in the junior varsity division of the 2012-2013 Coalition of Private School Sports Association Volleyball League during the awards presentation last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Players of Mt. Carmel show the Sportsmanship Award they won.



Saipan International School's Rafael Jones sets up teammate Clay McCullough-Stearn.



Junior varsity runner-up Saipan Community School poses with its trophy.



Grace Christian Academy's James Libut receives the ball, while teammate Genesis Manglona looks on during their semis game against Mt. Carmel in the varsity division.



Saipan International School's Alex Park makes a return to Whispering Palms during their semis game.



A Mt. Carmel School player serves to Grace Christian Academy.



Grace Christian Academy's Jun Kitagawa goes for a kill.



Grace Christian Academy's Genesis Manglona serves to Saipan International School.



Saipan International School's Clay McCullough-Stearns, left, attempts to block Grace Christian Academy's James Libut.



**Well-rested
Tigers take on
well-tested
Giants**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

**Coach K: LeBron
might have
20-assist game**

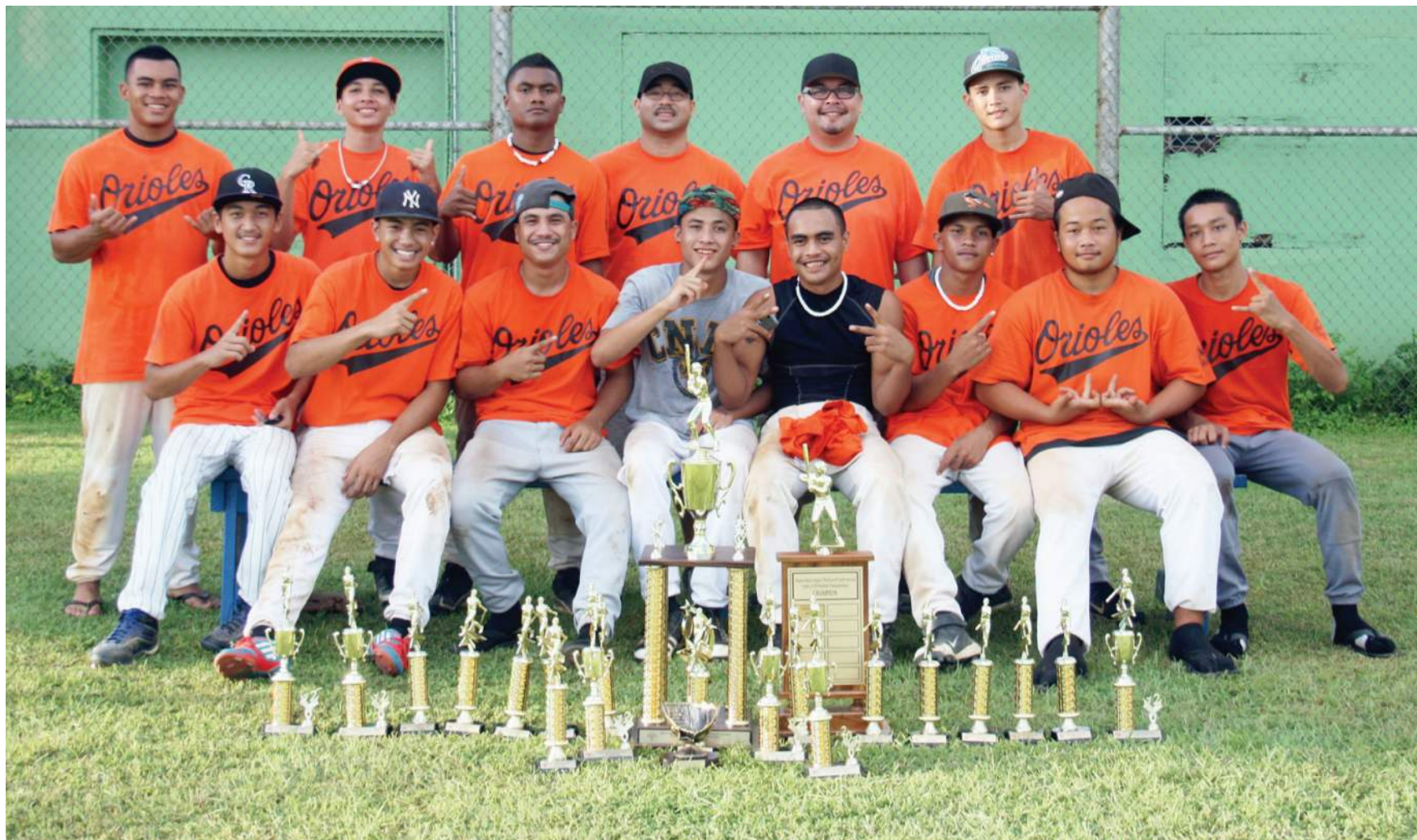
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2012

Orioles hold off Rockies to clinch title



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The Orioles pose for a photo with their championship and pennant trophies and various individual awards at the conclusion of the SML/DYS' 18U Triple A Championship Youth Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

The Orioles fell behind from the start, but found a way to past a red-hot Rockies, 8-7, and win the championship in the Saipan Major League Baseball Association/Division of Youth Services' 18U Triple A Championship Youth Baseball League last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Hi-Five sets up semis clash with PIC

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Hi-Five showed composure in the homestretch to outlast Oceanside/Hoopaholics, 84-81, in a seesaw playoff battle in the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup last Tuesday night at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hi-Five is now in the semifinals and faces pennant champion Pacific Islands in a highly anticipated Final Four match tonight at 8pm.

Dan Barcinas hit a clutch basket, Charlie Peters made two big defensive stops, and Ponce Rasa and Jesus Iguel canned insurance free throws to lift Hi-Five to the 3-point win.

The Hoopaholics, who routed Hi-Five in their lone meeting in the regular season, lost the more important game and were eliminated after missing a bundle of shots in about a minute and commit-



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Hi-Five's Dan Barcinas pulls up for a clutch jumper against the Hoops' Mel Manibusan during the closing seconds of their playoff game in the Emon Lodge caging last Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The heavily favored Orioles earned an automatic finals seat after downing the Reds, 8-6, in the upper bracket semifinals and saved face against the upset-minded Rockies with the come-from-behind win. The Orioles are composed of Frankie Camacho, Jake and Jonah Flores,



Dave Hosono, A.J. Lizama, Poland Masaharu, Mike Muna, Carlos and Jun Rauliman, T.J. Sablan, Jake Santos, Gayvan Uchau, and Kenji Yamagata, with manager Walter Macaranas and coach Mark Flores.

The last-seeded Rockies, who
See ORIOLES on Page 26

Ruselle enters quarterfinals of Men's Masters

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
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REPORTER



Ruselle Zapanta made it to the quarterfinals of the Men's Masters event in the 26th Asian Inter-City Bowling Championships.

The No. 11-ranked Zapanta marched into the Round of 8 of the prestigious event after pulling off an upset over the sixth-seeded J.D. Castro of Tamuning, Guam, yesterday at the Premium Lanes Penang in Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia. Zapanta caught his higher seeded foe off guard in Game 1, winning by 12 pinfalls, 233-221. The Guam bet then foiled Zapanta's bid for a sweep with a 198-156 victory in Game 2, but the Saipan Bowling Association keger still came out victorious after prevailing in the deciding Game 3, 226-194, for a 2-pinfall win, 615-613.

With the close victory, Zapanta was pitted against the No. 5-ranked Lee Tak Man of Macau in the quarterfinal game played on the same day and this time fatigue took its toll on the Saipan bet. Zapanta, who had been playing in the Malaysian tournament since Saturday, dropped both games, 181-201, 227-237, and settled for the No. 7 spot among 66 participants.

Despite losing in the quarter-
See RUSELLE on Page 26

SIS White Geckos still undefeated



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Saipan International School White Geckos' Clay McCullough-Stearns, left, tries to block a spike dealt by Mount Carmel School's Raymond Yamagata in this file photo taken during an earlier game in the MISO volleyball league at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Saipan International School's White

Geckos clinched first place in the

standings as they recorded their fourth win in as many games in the 2012-2012 Marianas Inter-scholastic Sports Organization Higj School Boys Volleyball League last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

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